

Days Of Old Sumner County

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Sumner County Historical Society

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John Brackin: Sumner Pioneer Strong Man

By Johnnie Freedle, Highland
Rim Historical Society

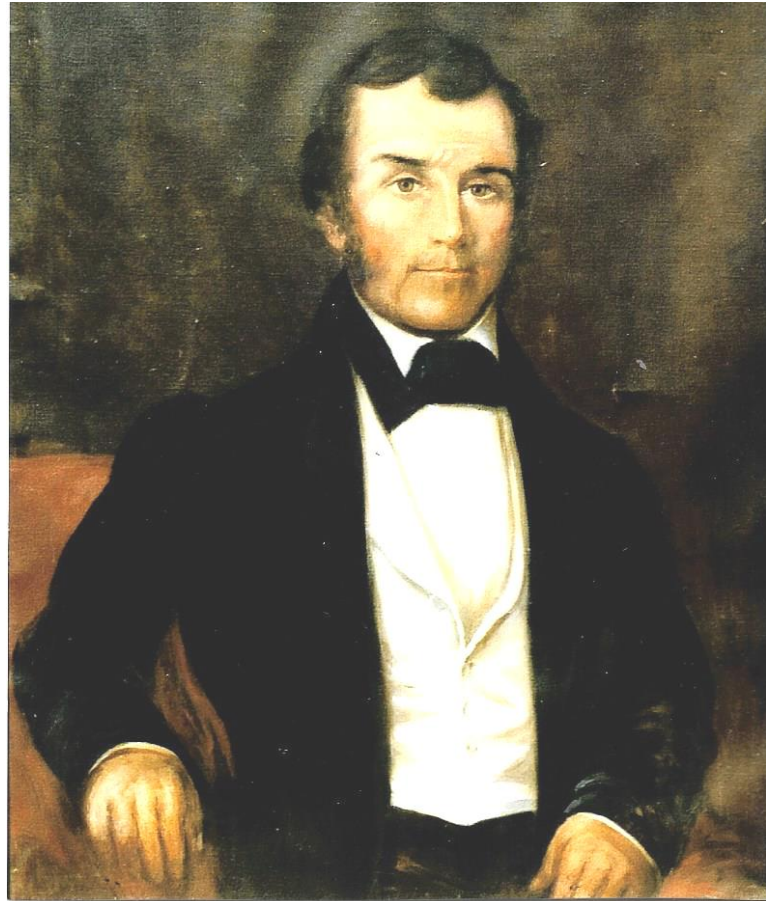
Well-known pioneer Thomas Sharp Spencer was not the only early Sumner County settler to live in a tree.

John Brackin, a fourth generation Brackin in America, was born about 1780 in North Carolina, the son of Isaac and Rachel Stalcup Brackin. He purchased his first land in Sumner County on the Sulphur Fork of Drakes Creek in February 1812, where he lived in a tree near a big spring while building a cabin.

He built in the split-log style a beautiful log cabin of oak, 20 x 25 feet and one-and-a-half stories high. It was floored with poplar wood and originally had a fireplace that could burn 10-foot logs and had an area for cooking at one end. In 1840, this fireplace and chimney were torn down and replaced. The new chimney had a keystone that was cut with the year 1840. A kitchen was added, detached from the main house for fire protection.

His log house was last lived in by his grandchildren—Robert, David, Joseph, and Reuben Brackin—until 1947. It was torn down in 1960, and the logs were sold to Gallatin Attorney Nathan Harsh. In 1962, Harsh reconstructed the Brackin house on his ancestral land near Castalian Springs (Bledsoe's Lick).

(See BRACKIN, Page 2)



This portrait of Isaac Franklin, owned by Kenneth Thomson, was painted in 1940 by Mayna Treaner Avent from a painting by 19th century portraitist Ralph E.W. Earl, whose most famous works were of Andrew Jackson.

Isaac Franklin: A Man of His Time

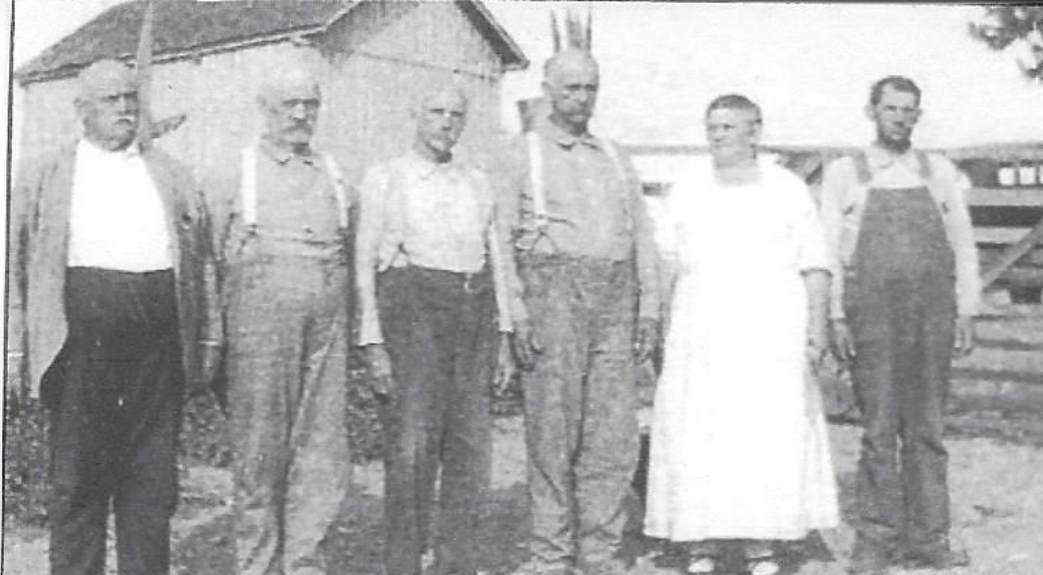
By Kenneth Thomson, SCHS President

Isaac Franklin, unlike most slave traders of his day, was not an outcast of society. He travelled in the social strata equal to that of his economic classification.

Franklin was a Tennessee gentleman, a Louisiana planter and a well know slave trader throughout the country. He differed from other planters in that he disliked being involved in public affairs. This being the case, he was still a staunch Jacksonian Democrat.

Life began for Isaac Franklin May 26, 1789, at Pilot Knob Plantation on Station Camp Creek in Sumner County. He was a first generation Tennessean born of pioneer stock.

(See FRANKLIN, Page 10)



Some of the grandchildren of John Brackin, sons of Balie Peyton Brackin, about 1933: Henry Terrell Brackin, Robert Peyton Brackin, David Garrison Brackin, Joseph Reed Brackin, Fannie Brackin Groves and Reuben Brackin. Not pictured are Emily Brackin Gibson and Isaac Brackin who were deceased. All Balie Peyton's children were large and strong. He, his wife, two daughters and six sons had a combined weight of over 2,000 pounds. The building in the background is a smokehouse. It could store as many as 800 curing hogs.

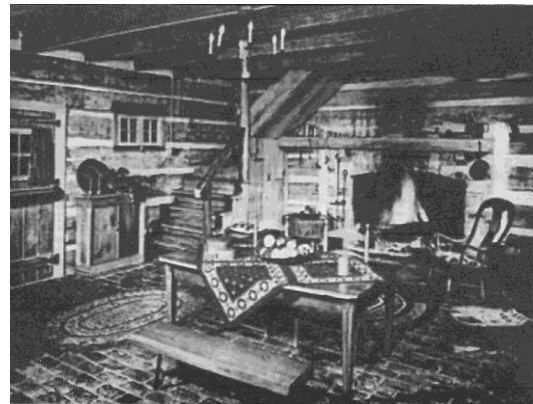
(BRACKIN, Continued from Page 1)

It was featured in the Better Living section of the *Nashville Tennessean* on Sunday, Feb. 21, 1965.

Also like Spencer, John Brackin's strength was legendary. An interesting story tells about the rock used in the cabin's fireplace construction. In those days, land owners were ordered by the county court to keep up the road in their area. Once while John Brackin was working on the road, the crew came upon a rock that had rolled off a bluff into the road. Several men tried unsuccessfully to move the rock, and one man left to get a team of mules. While he was gone, John Brackin came upon the group and, working alone, moved the rock. Later, after cutting half the rock away for his fireplace, John's son, Balie, tried moving the rock. He couldn't move it even though he was reputedly strong enough move nine bushels (540 lbs.) of wheat from wagon to mill in one carry.

Another story tells how John in his early 30s worked in Nashville on Andrew Jackson's dock. He won a pool as to who could carry off the heaviest load. He carried 900 pounds of iron from the boat to a wagon on the dock.

In later years, John's grandsons who lived in the aforementioned cabin were also noted for their size and strength. Once, at 80 years of age Joseph Brackin—about 6'4", 245 pounds—astonished onlookers by picking up one end of a massive tree trunk. It took two young men to lift the other end.



John Brackin's reconstructed cabin

Brackin's Andrew Jackson Connection

In the early 1800s, the nearby community of New Roe was a stage coach stop from Kentucky to Tennessee. Notables, including Andrew Jackson, would stop there. A Brackin family keepsake is a pair of deer antlers, supposedly from a deer killed by Andrew Jackson when he stopped to visit and hunt with the Brackin family.

About 1814, John married Rhoda Groves, daughter of Thomas and Eady Harrod Groves, other early settlers. They had 14 children who grew to adulthood.

John Brackin named one of his sons Andrew Jackson and another Balie Peyton, after his close personal friend, Balie Peyton, a Gallatin lawyer and Congressman from Tennessee.

Brackin was a farmer with large orchards. He made peach and apple brandy, had thoroughbred horses with stables 300 feet long and raised hogs and cattle. He believed in education and had a library of law books. He wrote deeds and wills for people. His handwriting is on many records in the courthouse in Gallatin. For amusement, Brackin played the fiddle, danced and taught dancing.

Over the years, Brackin added land in both Tennessee and Kentucky. He died in 1850. He made equal disbursement of land or money to all his children. Balie Peyton Brackin received the property that included the cabin, approximately 300 acres. That land is still in the family. Several family members are buried there.



John's grandsons (l. to r.) Robert, David, Joseph and Reuben Brackin all lived in the cabin at some time. Robert was the only one of the brothers to marry.

Early Brackin History: Brackin Settlement

Family tradition holds that five Brackin brothers settled in Sumner County—William and James in what is now called Brackintown and John and Isaac about three miles north along the Kentucky-Tennessee line. The fifth—Henry—lived on Drakes Creek in the county.

The story that these men were all brothers is now in question. Research by Dr. Henry Brackin, Jr. suggests that the Brackins of Brackintown were cousins, not brothers, to the Brackins living on the state line. It is confusing.

The first Brackin in Sumner County was **James Sr.**, who bought 640 acres on the middle fork of Drake's Creek and built a house across from the present site of Brackintown cemetery. The land deed was witnessed by his son, William Brackin, who was highly educated and wrote many legal papers in the remote northern part of Sumner. He even wrote his own will, famously stating that no witness was necessary as his handwriting was well known. When he died in 1833, the will stood up in court. Later, William's son, James S.

Brackin, had a law office on the square in Gallatin.

Arriving shortly after James Sr. was **Isaac Brackin**, likely his brother. He bought land on the West Fork of Drake's Creek in 1798. James Sr. and Isaac's father, William Brackin, arrived in 1806. He bought 200 acres of land on the Sulphur Fork of Drakes's Creek from James Brackin Sr. William died in 1808.

These Brackin men and their children are considered the founders of Brackintown.

James Brackin Sr. had six children: William, John, James Jr., Rosannah Butler, Jane Porter and Elizabeth Hobby.

Isaac Brackin had one son James Boyle Brackin and five daughters.

All descendants of William Brackin and most descendants of Isaac Brackin left Sumner County before 1850. Those that remained were the descendants of James Brackin Jr. and his brother, John Brackin (not strong man John). John and his wife Patsy Martin lived near Brackintown cemetery, the center of the community.

As noted, strong man John Brackin came to Sumner County and purchased land where he built his log cabin in 1812. Apparently, John's brother Henry, his sister Lydia (wife of James Boyle) and their parents, Isaac and Rachel Stalcup Brackin, came at the same time. James Boyle and Henry Brackin are found in the 1816 tax list of Sumner County.

Henry Brackin obtained a land grant on the Middle Fork of Drakes Creek in 1826, and his son Wiley Brackin also obtained a land grant there at the same time. Some of his descendants (Lattie and John Graves) still live on Wiley Brackin's land. Lydia and James Boyle had a son, Isaac Boyle and daughters: Ann (married Joseph McGlothlin), Rachel (married William House), Polly (married Henry House), Susan (married James Freedle), Sinai (married James House.) Some of their descendants still live on land owned originally by James Boyle.

In 1828 the last Brackin immigrant arrived from North Carolina. He was Isaac Brackin Jr., brother of strong man John Brackin, and of Henry Brackin. He bought land adjoining his brother, John, on the state line.

These are the three brothers living outside of Brackintown; John, Isaac Jr. and Henry Brackin. They were the sons of Isaac Brackin Sr. who was a brother of William Brackin (the father of Isaac Brackin and James Brackin Sr.) All three of these brothers have descendants living in the area today.

What Ever Happened to New Roe/Brackintown?

By Johnnie Freedle of Highland Rim Historical Society

There can be no debate that early decisions can greatly affect the future of a town, some much more than others. That is the case with the now defunct communities of New Roe and Brackintown.

Dr. Henry Brackin, Jr., did extensive research on the Brackin family with a focus on his part of the family, whose land bordered the Kentucky state line about a mile from the community of New Roe. In his book, *The Brackin Family In The Southeastern United States* published in 1979, he shared an interesting story about the railroad and how it came to be routed through Portland.

L&N Changed Towns' Histories

Plans to build a railroad from Louisville to Nashville began as early as the 1830s, the goal to make the route as direct as possible. New Roe, located about six miles northeast of Brackintown, was settled about that time and was one of the largest townships in the area. The railroad wanted to run its tracks through the New Roe/ Brackintown area. New Roe was particularly important at the time because it had a U.S. Post Office with semi-weekly mail, and it was on the Nashville/Bardstown Stage Coach Route that was said to be used frequently by Andrew Jackson. Surveys were done, but negotiations and land acquisitions lagged for years. New Roe was incorporated in 1859 with a population of about 85. It was a progressive community for the period. All of the teachers at New Roe Academy were graduates of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va.). No degrees were conferred, but graduation was equivalent in many ways. In his book, Dr. Brackin reported that his grandfather, Balie Peyton Brackin, majored in mathematics. He studied algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and surveying, also Latin.

Dr. Brackin noted that as New Roe developed over the years, it consisted of the following: two schools (white and colored), dry goods and grocery store, post office, funeral home, flour mill (owned and operated by Balie Peyton Brackin), furniture factory, blacksmith shop, one hotel, one Masonic Lodge, an axe handle factory, and a spoke factory. The businessmen of the day were: A. C. Anthony, general store; B. F. Anthony and Co., general store, and he was also the postmaster; B. P. Brackin, and Bro. (Freeman Brackin), general store; J.A.Crazat,

cabinetmaker; James Hodges, shoemaker; J.D. Perdue, blacksmith; Pike and Duffer, millers; and Lafayette Price, blacksmith. Between 1860 and 1920, New Roe had six physicians: Drs. O'Haney and Milliken, J. F. Anthony, Burton, Bunch, J.R. Mayhew and Vickers. New Roe's principal exports were tobacco, wheat and timber.



Balie Peyton Brackin and his wife, Mary Ann Terrell Brackin. Balie Peyton was a businessman in New Roe, Kentucky in the mid 1800s. His father, John, settled on land in the Brackintown area about 1812. The land is still in the family.

Even though New Roe and Brackintown flourished during that period of the 19th century, they both faded into history. Today there is little to remind you of the old communities, just a few old buildings and scattered homes.

What caused the disappearance of New Roe, and Brackintown? Dr. Brackin's research sheds some interesting light on the subject. The story goes that when the vote on the railroad was taken, many voted for it, but a family with the largest land holdings refused to sell their land. As a result, the railroad had to be resurveyed. It was routed through Fountain Head to the west with a station at Richland Station, which became Portland. Later, another line was routed to the east, with a station that grew up to be Westmoreland.

The two towns that would have been on the railroad died rather than becoming the dominant towns of northern Sumner County and southern Allen County. As Paul Harvey always ended his broadcasts: "And that is the rest of the story."

Editor's Note: See more about the Brackin family on pages 1,2 and 3.

Westmoreland's First Football Team: Hilltoppers

By John Creasy

For many in Westmoreland, watching the Westmoreland Eagles play football is a Friday night ritual. Today's Eagles squad, with its coaches, equipment and facilities is big business compared to the very first team.

The year was 1931, and the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression. Westmoreland High School principal, H.H. Howser, agreed to add football to the school's extracurricular activities. At the time, the school nickname was Hilltoppers since the school was located on the hill top at the corner of Bledsoe and Locust streets. The nickname was changed to Eagles when a new high school opened in 1956.

Walter Mullins and Ralph Howser coached the first team. The school purchased, at a sizeable discount, used uniforms from a nearby prep school. No one seemed to mind that the color, yellow, did not match the school's adopted color, maroon. As best as could be done, alterations were made for the uniforms to fit. The leather helmets and shoulder pads had to be worn, fit or not. Unable to afford cleats, players bought standard shoes at a local general store owned by T.C. Harrison. They cut small square strips of leather, stacked them on the soles and tacked them on. Occasionally players were heard to scream out in pain as a tack pushed up into the bottoms of their shoes.

Practices were held in a field just below the old high school, the present-day site of the city's Little League ball field on Oak Street.

Shortly after practice began, it was announced that Hartsville would be the Hilltoppers' first opponent. According to Harris Brown, a member of the first team and from whom much of this information was obtained, the boys eagerly anticipated their first victim. Never mind that even at that early date Hartsville already had a rich tradition of football. To make matters worse, Hartsville's star player was Phil Dickens, later listed as an All-American, and the game was to be in Hartsville.

Come game day, the new team made its way to Trousdale County. With nervous excitement, the boys suited up, and the coaches went over last minute plans. The crowd began to build, the whistle sounded and the boys pitched head-long into the fray. From the beginning, the battle was fierce but one-sided with WHS boys attempting to figure out just what the game was all about. Having his fill of being roughed up, one WHS player knelt into his stance before the next play, looked across the line into the eyes of his Hartsville opponent and pleaded, "You don't hit me and I won't hit you!"

Mercifully, the final whistle blew, and the first game ended. The final score—Hartsville 126 and Westmoreland 0—told the story and is still the source of amusement for some old-timers.

Playing the Game at Home

The Westmoreland team never really held much of a home field advantage in those days. The reason was simple—there was never much of a home field. The first home game was against Lafayette and was played in a then vacant lot behind the present-day Cathy's Country Cupboard restaurant.

Another site for games was a vacant field near the corner of Old Highways 52-W and 31-E. The field is a commercial and residential area today.

Westmoreland's first football program was short-lived, ending in 1934 with the arrival of a new, less than supportive principal. Regular opponents had included Hartsville, Lafayette, Donelson, Gallatin, Adams, Gainesboro, Bell Buckle and Cedar Hill.

Funny Stories From Seasons Long Past

Harris Brown recalls some humorous moments of those early games. Once they played Gallatin in Westmoreland. A few days before the event, it was discovered that Gallatin's large band would be travelling with the team to the game. Westmoreland did not have a band, but they did have a coach, Leo Boles, and a cheerleader, Mary Frank Caldwell, who didn't mind practical jokes. Boles told Mary to spread the word among fans to bring pots and pans and anything else to make noise at the game. Every time Gallatin's band started up, Westmoreland's fans replied with the sounds of banging pots and pans, chains, cowbells and horns.

In another game on Gallatin's home field, Harris Brown suffered a separated shoulder. Seeing him writhing in pain, coaches and players ran onto the field, crowding around him to examine the injury. Unknown to Harris, his father, Squire W. Brown, was in attendance. He was not a football fan and didn't care to know much about the sport. To the elder Brown, it appeared to be little more than a bunch of boys slinging each other to the ground and fighting. Having seen enough of his son "fighting" that day, the squire bounded from the stands, ran onto the field and forced his way through the crowd. He grabbed his son and shouted, "You get out of there right now!" while marching him off the field. The squire drove him

(See FOOTBALL, Page 11)

Fountain Head, Mitchellville Retain Rural Identities

By Al Dittes

If Louisville's city fathers hadn't wanted to compete with its rival river ports Evansville, Ind., and Cincinnati, Fountain Head and Mitchellville—not Portland—probably would have been the main towns in Upper Sumner County.

Fountain Head started in the 1790s, and Mitchellville began early in the 19th century. Portland, originally known as Richland, came along with the building of a railroad between Louisville and Nashville in the 1850s. When the Civil War began in April 1861, the railroad became vitally important to both North and South. Development turned out to favor Portland while the other two towns remained primarily rural communities even though they moved their base areas to be along the tracks.

An 1878 map of all three communities—each having a blacksmith shop, post office and depot—indicates that Mitchellville had the most activity. Businesses were F.B. Groves & Bro., and Dr. J.S. Mulloy. Families living along the main street were: W.E. Randle, J. Smart, W.P. Berry, J.M. Graves, W.P. Berry, R.M. Hester, C.J. Graves, M. Cummings, M., R., E., T., and I. Groves, R. Pierce, H. Barnard, T. Taylor, R. Lovell and Mrs. Garrett.

Fountain Head had McKendree Academy, a tobacco warehouse and two stores, one operated by W.G. Pond and the other by J.T. Bumpus.

Families listed there were: J.C. Buntin, I.F. Watwood, H.F. Suttle, H.A. Morris and V. Gates.

Mitchellville's "boom" was just starting when the Civil War broke out. It boasted two stores and a tobacco factory. Life there escalated, especially after Confederate Col. John Hunt Morgan and his troops pulled off a spectacularly successful raid at South Tunnel on Aug. 12, 1862. They overpowered the Federal garrison at Gallatin, took over the telegraph office, destroyed a captured locomotive and collapsed the tunnel. Because of this major blockage, Union Army supply trains from Louisville, Ky., had to unload at Mitchellville. Horses and wagons transported the goods overland to Nashville until the tunnel reopened, subject to harassment from local guerillas such as Ellis Harper.

In Fountain Head, Fort Mitchell guarded the railroad supplying the Union Army. Fountain Head had been the center of a farm culture for many years. The 1850 census for District 16,17,18 reflects a rural society with four farmers and four wagon makers as well as three merchants, two cabinet makers, tanners and

blacksmiths, a minister, carpenter, school teacher, cooper, constable, shoemaker, lumber trader, physician and gate keeper. Some family names were: Briley, Bandy, Hester, Hunter, Hodges, Ausbrooks, Brizendine, Kirkham, Sarver, Bradley and White, among many others.



Sumner County Commissioner Larry Hinton, a fourth-generation resident of Mitchellville, stands in front of the historic ice house and store along the main street near the railroad.

At the start of the Civil War, Fountain Head had four stores, a tobacco factory, a grist mill, a post office and the L & N railroad depot. An academy came later on the spot of the present Clyde Riggs Elementary School.

"During the Civil War, Fountain Head, being a great center and mart for ties, wood and timbers of all kinds, grew to be quite a stirring little town, leaving Richland far behind," local author William McGlothlin concluded in the fifth of the nine articles he wrote in 1909 about early life in the area.

Background of Fountain Head

The first Fountain Head settler, surveyor James Gwin, arrived in 1792. He profited from those coming in and then kept a step ahead of civilization by doing the same job in Mississippi. He lived until 1841, dying near Vicksburg.

James Gwinn served as a chaplain in Andrew Jackson's army during the Battle of New Orleans and financially supported Jackson's political campaigns. When Jackson became president in 1829, he appointed two sons of James Gwin, Samuel and William, to high political offices.

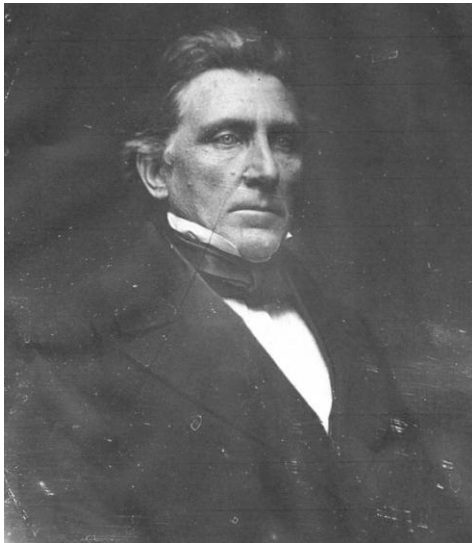
Samuel Gwin became the first postmaster of Fountain Head in 1828 and Register of the Land Office in Mount Salve, Miss., in October, 1831. He died fighting a duel over this political office.

The other son, William McKendree Gwin, born in Fountain Head on Oct. 9, 1805, was the town's most prominent citizen. He was named after William McKendree, a Methodist bishop still honored in Portland.

Gwin graduated from medical school at Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., in 1828. He opened a medical practice in Clinton, Miss., but Jackson summoned him to Washington, D.C. to be his private secretary for six months while his nephew, Col. Andrew Jackson Donelson, went home to Tennessee due to his wife's illness. Here young Gwin met some of the foremost men in government.

President Jackson appointed him to be U.S. Marshal for the southern district of Mississippi in 1833. He won election to Congress in 1840 but served only one term due to financial difficulties.

He moved to California in 1849 at the onset of the gold rush and immediately became one of the most prominent citizens of San Francisco. He helped draw up the state constitution in 1850. He was selected by the newly-organized California legislature to be one of California's U.S. senators.



Senator William Gwin

Bishop Made Fountain Head His Home

Bishop William McKendree, though born in King William County, Va. (July 6, 1757), called Fountain Head home.

As a young man, he fought in the American Revolution. He joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787 and eventually became a circuit-riding minister in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina. In 1801, McKendree was assigned to oversee the

church's efforts in southeastern Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and western Virginia. As he faithfully worked for these districts, his reputation grew. The Methodist Episcopal Church elected McKendree its first American-born bishop in 1808, a position that he held the rest of his life. His work earned him the title "Father of Western Methodism."

McKendree's brother, Dr. James McKendree, moved to Sumner County in 1810. Bishop McKendree died March 5, 1835, at his brother's house near Jackson Road. His body was later reburied on the campus of Vanderbilt University, which had started out as a Methodist college.

In addition to the Methodist Church in Portland, McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill., McKendree Village Retirement Community and McKendree Memorial United Methodist Church in Nashville bear his name. Bishops Francis Asbury and William McKendree organized the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Fountain Head in 1812. A plaque commemorates the site of this event in Old Fountain Head cemetery.

Other Fountain Head Families

The 1840 census shows that Fountain Head had several McGlothlins, one Pond family, two Gwins and R.D. Moore.

The 1850 census lists Richard Pond as a cabinetmaker and father of William Guthrie Pond (1833-1889). In the 1880 census, W.G. and Nannie Lane Pond, ages 45 and 42 respectively, had a 19-year-old son named Charles T. Pond.

His 1927 obituary said that he was "owner with his brother, William G. Pond, of a mercantile business at Fountain Head."

Mr. (Charles T.) Pond was also one of Sumner County's leading farmers and although he never had held a county office was always prominent in county political affairs. With his brother, he operated a store at Fountain Head for more than 30 years. His son, Charles Stewart Pond, assisted him in the management of his large farming interests.

If you or someone you know would like to join Sumner County Historical Society, contact President Ken Thomson at 615-461-8830. New members are welcome! Family membership is \$25 annually. Individual membership is \$20 annually.



Two white horses pulled members of the Gallatin Fire Department circa 1915. Bells ringing and horses at full speed, the Fire Department carried the news of the Armistice through the streets of Gallatin on Nov. 11, 1918. This photo is part of the Thomas Collection at Sumner County Archives.

Sumner County Celebrates the End of WWI

By Judith Morgan

In her 2016 book, *Sumner County in the Great War: Let Us Remember*, Hendersonville author, Judith Morgan, paints a vivid picture of how families in Sumner County and local soldiers still in Europe responded to the dramatic news that WWI was over at last. On November 11, 1918, the exuberant cry, “Finis la guerre!,” set off celebrations world wide. Morgan wrote:

“In Gallatin, when the news came by wire that the war was over, the volunteer fire department went into action. The fire hall was a brick building on West Franklin Street with a little cupola that housed a big bell. Whenever there was a fire, ‘central’ would call the volunteers, and the bell would begin to ring...The town’s one fire engine was a horse-drawn vehicle with four huge, matched white beasts, strong enough to pull the weight of the engine filled with water...It was a dark, dreary and drizzly day, November 11, when the bells began to ring about 11 a.m. How eager and excited the

horses were as the engine raced through the streets of the town with the good news!...

“The word went out that there would be a celebration that night on the Square with a bonfire, speeches, etc, and would be climaxed with burning the Kaiser in effigy. Of course, all the children were ‘wild to go.’ But parents were worried: the flu epidemic was not over, and any public gathering was dangerous. Most finally decided the event was too important to be missed, and families joined in the impromptu parade that ended at the Public Square. People were driving or pushing anything they could find, from men in touring cars to children with baby buggies. Nearly a hundred automobiles from across the county took part, and people came from all over. Overton Harris, reading about it later in the *Sumner County News* wished he could have there, ‘I sure would have liked to walk up on you all in Gallatin the night the armistice was signed. I’m sure you had a time.’

"The rally went on in spite of the cold and misting rain. A platform for the speakers had been built, and Edward Albright, editor and proprietor of the *Sumner County News*, was master of ceremonies. Miss Elizabeth Blue entertained the crowd with patriotic songs. The grown-ups cheered, but the children were typical children. Some were bored by the long speeches. Others were frightened with the 'Kaiser' was burned. Few of them really understood what was happening until much later, but they never forgot it. No one alive that day ever did..."

Still Over There

Even as battles continued in parts of Europe, suddenly announcements came that the war was over and Sumner County men were among the vast throng of celebrants. Gallatin's Dr. Bill Lackey described it in a letter, and Johnny Adcock, Overton Harris and Slick Dunklin all had stories to tell. Morgan described it:

"At exactly 11 a.m., Thousands of heavy guns fired 'the parting shot' to the Germans...all along the front men joined hands... 'Oh, Joy, Peace. Peace! At Last...' Dr. Bill Lackey's ecstasy echoed around the world that Sunday, Nov. 11, 1918. 'No words can describe our sensations,' he wrote from Romagne, near the front lines of the Meuse-Argonne, "when the terms for an armistice were signed and the road of the cannon was stilled.

"The silence fell on us like a pall, so still it seemed that the 'DoeBoys' singing *Sweet Rosie O'Grady* rang out on the heavy air with startling distinctness...our Boys, God bless them, began to celebrate like kids at Xmas time. They built bonfires and threw smokeless powder into it...I would have given anything if I could have set off a few of those German fireworks with the boys. I could see them on every hill..."

"It had been a day of suspense. German planes continued to drop bombs, artillery roared, and no one knew if the Germans would really sign. 'My heart went down to my boots,' wrote Lackey, '...the guns banged away and the noise continued. Another American [plane] came flying low and dropped another message. Crowds of German prisoners jostled each other and grinned as they were hustled through the streets...All at once the noise stopped. A German plane with a white flag came scudding overhead. Rumors, wild and otherwise, flew through the army. Finally [an officer] said the Germans had signed and the hostilities had ceased...tears in his eyes...a lump in my throat...[someone] put *The Star Spangled Banner* on the captured Hun phonograph, and we rose to our feet and stood at salute. We...were a happy bunch that night in this ruined, muddy, musty old French village, only a few days evacuated by the Germans.'

"It took a few hours for the word of the armistice to spread. The 30th Division had been in rest camp those last days, hearing rumors, waiting for news. Johnny Adcock was on switchboard duty November 11 at the headquarters of the signal battalion. He was still with his unit, even though he had been given a chance to go home when doctors didn't like what they saw on a chest X-ray, taken most likely after he was gassed. But Johnny was determined to stay to the end, just as he told his family. He laughingly convinced the doctors to look at the X-ray again; it was a scar left, he insisted, by a mule stepping on his chest when he was a child. They looked again. Sure enough, they could see the hoof print when it was pointed out to them. Now Johnny, who had heard from headquarters that the armistice would be signed that day, refused to go off duty as scheduled and stayed on the switchboard until the message came through, six hours after the signing. The celebration began."

(FRANKLIN, Continued from Page 1)

His father was Lt. James Franklin of Baltimore, Md., He ran away from home as a young lad, landing in Botetcourt County, Virginia. He was employed by James Lauderdale and married his daughter, Mary. They soon left for the wilds of Tennessee. James Franklin travelled into what is now Sumner County as a Long Hunter in the 1770's. He fought in the Revolutionary War and is listed by Gen. James Robertson as one of the "Immortal Seventy" for which he was granted a 640 acre of land by the state of North Carolina.

On this section of land, James Franklin prospered and at his death in 1828 left his family a sizable legacy. When each son reached his majority, he presented them with a horse, bridle and pocket knife. When Isaac reached 21, he used his knife to carve a miniature ship, which he sold for \$1. That is how he made his first dollar. Fifteen years later he was a millionaire.

Isaac was reared in comfort but received little formal education. At age 21, he entered business with his older brothers James II and John. He transported raw goods by flatboat to New Orleans, where they were sold, and he brought processed goods back to Sumner County. It was at this time that Isaac was introduced to the slave trade and the plantation life of the Deep South.

Isaac's early business career was briefly interrupted by the War of 1812. He served with the rank of major. By his death in 1846, Isaac had accumulated an estate valued at over a million dollars. He bought large holdings in Sumner County, where in 1832 he built his stately mansion Fairvue, which stands today in Gallatin.

Isaac's interest then turned to Louisiana where he purchased six plantations: Bellevue, Killarney, Lochlmond, Angola, Loango and Panola. He also purchased several thousand acres in Texas. In addition to these holdings, he also owned turnpike and bank stock as well as a third interest in the Nashville Race Course.

When he died in 1846, he owned 10,000 acres of land in Tennessee and Louisiana and more than 600 slaves.

In 1839 at the age of 50, Isaac Franklin married Adelia Hayes. She was the daughter of Oliver Bliss Hayes and Sarah Clemmons Hightower. Hayes was a lawyer and a minister in the Presbyterian Church. Hayes became a close friend of his son-in-law and managed his affairs while he and Adelia were out of state. He was also one of the administrators of Franklin's estate after his death.

During their seven year marriage, the Franklins had four children: Victoria, Adelia, Emma and Julius Caesar. All died in childhood.

The Slave Trade

In those days, the slave trade was referred to as "The Business." In 1808, the foreign trade closed thus increasing the demand for domestic traffic. Franklin formed a partnership with his nephew by marriage, John Armfield. For the next nine years, they were the leading traders in the country.

They established themselves in Alexandria, Va., where they bought as many as 500 slaves at a time. Many slaves requested that they be sold to this firm because they were always assured of excellent treatment. Franklin and Armfield had a high regard for family ties and often lost money in transactions trying to keep families together.

These slaves were shipped to Natchez, Miss., where they had headquarters. Here they were sold to the southern planters. On the return trip, these vessels brought sugar, molasses, whiskey and cotton back to Alexandria. When in the market, slaves were usually outfitted with a black fur hat, roundabout and trousers of corduroy velvet, vests, shoes and white cotton shirts. Soon after being sold, they would discard these new clothes for it was undesirable to have recently been to market.

About 1835, Franklin eased out of active participation in the slave business. By 1841, he was completely out. He concentrated on the management of his Tennessee and Louisiana plantations. He considered Fairvue his home.

Fairvue was built in 1832 at a cost of \$10,000, with the furnishings costing a like amount. The mantels were of Irish Killkenny marble and cost \$500 each. A most unusual feature of the house was the brass newel post.

The mansion was surrounded by beautiful lawns and gardens. Probably the most unusual of the outbuildings was the mushroom ice house in the center of the formal flower garden. Several hundred yards to the east of the mansion stood 23 brick buildings. These included 20 double slave houses, a spring house, a carpenter shop and the overseer's house.

In early April of 1846, the Franklins were living in one of the West Feliciana plantations where Isaac died on April 27, 1846. His remains were preserved in the contents from three barrels of whiskey and then shipped to Tennessee for entombment.

Isaac Franklin's Will was very involved and the settlement of his estate occupies the court records of Tennessee and Louisiana. It provided for the expansion of his Louisiana plantations.

Adelicia was to retain Fairvue until she remarried, and then the property was to be used for the purpose of educating members of his family and the poor, needy children of Sumner County. This school was endowed with \$600,000. Isaac's brothers, William and James, were appointed as trustees and were given the authority to appoint their successors.

On Dec. 1, 1847, the Isaac Franklin Institute was incorporated for 500 years. In 1850, William Franklin designated three trustees viz.: Dr. John W. Franklin, Albert C. Franklin and Dr. Horace F. Anderson.

Adelicia sold her interest in Fairvue to William Franklin as trustee for \$30,000. The next year, 1849, she married Col. Joseph Alexander Smith Acklen of Huntsville, Ala. Having remarried, Adelicia was entitled to only a \$100,000 cash settlement from Isaac's estate.



This is a portrait owned Ken Thomson of Adelicia Hayes Franklin, called Ade. She was the daughter of Oliver Bliss Hayes and Sarah C. Hightower and wife of Isaac Franklin.

Family tradition holds that she had married Isaac for his money rather than love. This tradition is given some support by the fact that she did not respect his wishes as set out in his Last Will and Testament. She contested and broke Isaac's will. The District Court of Louisiana held that it was illegal for the six plantations in that state to perpetuate the Isaac Franklin Institute, an institution of another state, Tennessee.

Adelicia was then the wealthiest lady in Tennessee. Soon thereafter, she and Col. Acklen rebuilt a beautiful mansion in Nashville, which had burned. They called it Belle Monte. This

building is now the nucleus of Belmont College. She may have thwarted the efforts of Isaac Franklin to leave a perpetual endowment for the education of future generations, but ironically her eldest son, William Hayes Acklen, left more than a million dollars to education despite the fruitless efforts of his family to break his will. It is indeed ironic that after 100 years a portion of Isaac's money finally reached its destination and also the fact that Adelicia's home, Belle Monte, became an educational institution.

Editor's Note: Ken Thomson is a descendant of the Franklin family.

(FOOTBALL, Continued from Page 5)

home, giving him a tongue-lashing on proper behavior most of the way back to Westmoreland.

In an away game against Bell Buckle, Harris Brown sustained a blow to the head that left his face feeling numb. Concerned about his injury, the coaches permitted him to ride in the cab of the truck on the return trip home. The other players had to ride back the way they came, sitting on benches in the back of the open truck. The injury prevented Harris from attending a big supper that evening that had been prepared by some girls in the community.

Perhaps, the most humorous incident for the team involved a game at Gainesboro. Instead of travelling in one truck, the team was taken to the event in a number of separate cars. Unfortunately, some of the players got lost and did not make it to the game. It was quickly realized that Westmoreland did not have enough players to start. In desperation, one of the coaches, Harold Leftwich, donned a uniform and played one of the open positions. Sporting some gray in his sideburns, for he was much older than the average player, a quick application of black shoe polish to his hair, covertly done, allowed him to play the entire game unnoticed by the referees or anyone from the other side.

In addition to Harris, some of members of those early Westmoreland teams included: Collins Brown (Harris' brother), Corbit Keen, Forrest Roark, Doug Roark, Paul Fykes, Harris Howser, Edison Doss, Robert Morris, Etheridge Dodson, Clay Jent, Kermit Cornwell, Cary Cornwell, W.C. Majors, Funston Carr, Elmer Calvert, Robert Mays, Edward Simmons and Billy "Bully" Bell.

Westmoreland revived its football program in the early 1960s and now hosts home games in its well-appointed "Eagle Stadium." This second effort at fielding a team has sported a significantly better "win-loss" ratio.

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