

# Days Of Old Sumner County

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Sumner County Historical Society

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## Courthouse to Be Built on Site Of Washington Hall Hotel

By Ken Thomson  
SCHS President

Most folks in Sumner County know that Sumner County Commissioners last year approved plans for a new county courthouse at the southwest corner of Gallatin's East Main and Boyers streets, next to First Baptist Church. What many don't know is that this particular corner has a long and fascinating history.

The county acquired it—the existing building and land—from the Baptists next door. Prior to that, it belonged to the county and housed the first Sumner County Archives, which was in the basement. Before that, it was the old Gallatin Post Office built during WWI in Woodrow Wilson's administration. And more than a hundred years before that it was the site of Washington Hall, the finest hotel in the city.

A 1903 *News Examiner* letter to the editor mentions the then recent razing of Washington Hall and goes on to give its history. The old letter says:

"This house has now only one-half its original frontage. The half which originally stood west of the part now standing and to which reference is now made constituted in its entirety what was known to the older

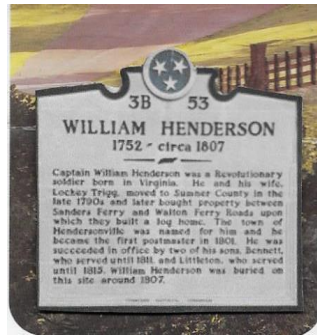
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## Finally Hendersonville's Namesake Gets a Closer Look!

By Shirley Wilson, genealogist

**Author's Note: Few people in Hendersonville know much more about William Henderson than what can be found on his historical marker. Some of the many mysteries surrounding him have been solved. My thanks to James Knox Trigg, who authored the *Trigg History*, solving some mysteries and confirming my research.**

William Henderson was born in August of 1752, probably in Albemarle County, Virginia, the son of John Henderson. He served as a captain in the Virginia Continental Line in the American Revolution. He married on Nov. 22, 1779, in Bedford County, Virginia, to Locky Trigg, who was born in May 1763, the daughter of William and Mary (Johns) Trigg, Sr. Locky's widowed mother Mary Trigg gave consent for her 16-year-old daughter to marry. Locky's father had died several years earlier in 1773 in Bedford County, naming her in his will.



Locky (Trigg) Henderson is not to be confused with Locky (Trigg) Saunders, born much later in June 1777, whose father was also named William Trigg, a son of the William Trigg Sr. who died in Bedford County. When Sumner County's William Trigg Jr. died, his will named his daughter Locky, wife of Edward Saunders.

William and Locky had 10 children, seven sons and three daughters, born between the years 1780 and 1803. The Hendersons reportedly came to Virginia from Fordell County in Scotland. Today, Fordell is a city and also a castle in Fife County on Scotland's east coast.

A letter from William Henderson to Mary Trigg Bradford indicated that he and his family were living in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1793. They migrated to Tennessee around 1799, probably from Washington County, Virginia. He was appointed postmaster on December 6, 1800, and he died in February of 1807 in Sumner County. While he is accepted as the man after whom Hendersonville was named, the specific person who requested he be appointed and named the village of Hendersonville is apparently lost to time. William's home on what much later became known as Hendersonville was comprised of two tracts, both of which were purchased from others. The largest tract of 220 acres was purchased first in January of 1799 from David Shelby. It was located on both sides of Drakes Creek and no doubt included the areas where the

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## (HALL Continued from Page 1)

citizens of our town as 'Washington Hall,' a holstery of the long ago. Just how long this house has been standing is not known to any of our residents. One of the pioneer citizens of the town was Mr. Robert M. Boyers, who has now been dead for many years. He said that it was in this house that he spent his first night in the town of Gallatin, and were he living now [1903] he would be 115 years old. So, as he said he was a small boy when he came here it is reasonable to say that this house was built more than a hundred years ago. Those of our citizens who can in memory go back the fartherest say that their first recollection of the building was that it was known as 'Washington Hall' and was kept by a man by the name of Bewler Brizendine.

"It was afterwards run as a hotel by Charles Lewis, and during his occupancy it was then that the sensational killing of Isaac Goodall occurred just in front of the office—Goodall being killed by Lewis during the excitement attendant upon the Presidential campaign of 1844—a 'polk stalk' being the cause. [Lewis was a James Polk supporter, called a polk stalk, and Goodall was a supporter of candidate Henry Clay. When they came to blows over their candidates, Goodall was killed.]

"During this campaign political excitement ran high—at the time there were two military companies in the county, one being commanded by Capt. Young Douglass and the other (afterwards) by Gen. Sam Anderson. The two companies were on parade the day the killing occurred—one being on the South side of the Public Square and the other on the North side, when the news of the killing was made known, and immediately the two companies under command of their officers loaded their guns and started toward each other, when elder men rushed in between the two and prevented what might have been a terrible conflict. This hotel was afterwards the property of Hugh Calgy, who rented it to Charles B. King and ran it as a hotel for quite a while. A few years before the late war between the states it was rented as a dwelling and continued so until recently.

"In the long ago, every hotel would use a bell to announce the different meals, and the bell which was used in 'Washington Hall' is now in the belfry of our County Court House, and as all know is used to announce public meetings and the assembling of the different courts.

"Times have indeed changed. At the time Mr. Brizendine was in the hotel business, Gallatin boasted three hotels, to wit, 'The Smart House' on West Main Street, on the lot where Mr. John

B. Peyton lives; 'The Gallatin Hotel,' where Mr. John Fry now lives, and one referred to above as 'Washington Hall.' In those days, Gallatin was a 'Stage Stand' being on the main line from Nashville, Tennessee, to Louisville, Kentucky, and the stages would stop here for meals for passengers and change horses.

"The passing of the stage through town was quite an event. The Post Office at the time spoken of was in the building now opposite the one being town down and was kept by Thomas G. Moss, Esq.

"We now know that Washington Hall was built circa 1802-1803 by Samuel P. Black. We know that it was referred to as the Old Tavern at some point when it was owned by Calgy. According to deeds, Mrs. Mary Calgy sold the old Tavern to Ann Virginia Parker Jamesan for \$2,600 in 1869. She sold it for \$4,000 to James Vaughn in March 1872 (several transfers are recorded in this deed). Vaughn's heirs sold it to Elizabeth (Bettie) Lauderdale (1833-1921) in 1887 (recorded in March 1888)."

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## Polk Popular In Sumner

Among Sumner County residents, James K. Polk was both a popular candidate for governor and a popular candidate for President just four years after that.

The late state historian Walter Durham reported in his book, *Old Sumner*, that in his gubernatorial race, Polk's "many friends in Sumner County gave him 1,928 votes to incumbent Governor Newton Cannon's 732. The Gallatin *Union* had strongly supported Polk's campaign as early as Sept. 7, 1838, and formally announced its endorsement of him on Sept. 21."

Durham also reported, "Probably the most exciting political development for Sumner Countians in 1844 was the election of James K. Polk as President of the United States. Only eight years earlier President Jackson had left the White House, and now another friend and neighbor was soon to take up where Old Hickory had left off.

"The leadership of 'the Democracy of Sumner County' called a meeting to celebrate Polk's election victory at the courthouse in Gallatin on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1844" during which a resolution was read by Col. Josephus Conn Guild congratulating Polk and inviting him to "visit the town of Gallatin...in the purpose of meeting with his friends at which time our houses will be thrown open to the citizens generally."

## The Good, Bad, Ugly: Sumner County Grand Jury Book 1879-1882

Transcribed by Bonnie Martin

Sumner County Archives has transcribed Grand Jury testimony, 1879 to 1882, and included an all name index. Testimony before the Grand Jury determined whether an unlawful violation required issuing a true bill (indictment) and warrant. Unlawful acts included fighting, gambling, drunkenness, theft, illegal alcohol sales, cohabitation without marriage and murder.

Thirteen years after the Civil War in Sumner, there was poverty, political conflict and longstanding grudges. Destitute men roamed the countryside looking for work and food. Widowed women accepted unmarried male companionship in exchange for food and firewood. Drinking and gambling passed the time. Innocent African Americans were accused of crimes they did not commit because of their race. The Grand Jury transcripts show the character and nature of witnesses and life during that time.

From the Grand Jury book witnesses describe a harrowing run in with lawless men. Nov. 2, 1881, Pages 127, 128, 129,130. **Mrs. Amy Carver Testified:** About 1<sup>st</sup> last April, as I was coming from a point six miles north of Scottsville , Ky., to my father, Mr. Laid (Loid). I was in a spring wagon and a Negro man was driving. At Coatstown, I saw Dave Key, Bill Meadows and Sam Fitts. I asked Key how far it was to the Rock House, and he said it was 15 miles and that we never could get there, and said the pike was blockaded and that we could not pass. Key hollered [halted] us twice for we left Coatstown and the last time called the Negro back out of the wagon and had a talk with him. When the Negro came back, he told me they was going to stop us at the horse shoe bend, and he gave me his pistol and told me to defend myself and that he being a Negro was not going to take any part in it. As we passed down into the hollow going round the bend, we stopped and enquired of a man who was splitting rails how far it was to the Rock House, when these three men, Key, Fitts and Meadows came across the bend into the road before us, and Mr. Fitts took hold of the horse and told me to get out of the wagon. And told me if I did not get out and leave me in the bend and let the Negro go back he would kill us. He threatened the Negro's life and told him to put me out and go back. But the Negro refused and started out leaving the three behind us. But as we went on a little further Fitts came across before us again and cursed us and told me if I did not get out of the wagon he would take me out. And he made an effort to take hold of me when I got out on the other side. When the Negro turned around and started back towards Coatstown and I following the wagon. And as we passed back around the bend, I saw Meadows and Key sitting

on the side of the road...Soon after which Fitts came in before us again...And at this moment Mr. Arch Armstrong came up and asked what was the matter. Fitts left and went where I've had seen them on the side of the road.

**Arch Armstrong Testified:** That sometime last spring perhaps in March I had some business on beyond Coatstown, and when in the hollow in the horse shoe bend just south of Coatstown I heard a noise like a woman crying. And going on further I noticed upon the hill above me a woman standing near a spring wagon, a white man standing close to the lady and a Negro holding the mule. And as I made on near the white man come down the road toward me. And I noticed the woman and the Negro was very much frightened. And I asked the lady what was the matter when she told me that that scamp had stopped them, threatened to kill them and ordered the Negro to put her out and go back. I then told her to go on with me and I would protect her which I did, until we met an old man named Sadler who said he was going to the Rock House and would see her safe that far, and the lady and Negro turned back with him and went on.

**Judgment in trial of Dave Key, Sam Fitts and William Meadows, Circuit Court, March 18th, 1881:** an indictment charged Key, Fitts and Meadows with assault with intent to commit rape. The Grand Jury indicted Key, Fitts and Meadows of unlawfully, feloniously and wickedly making an assault and battery upon the person of Annie Carver and unlawfully beat, bruise, wound and ill-treat her. The intent of the three men to forcibly against her will have carnal knowledge of her. Bail was granted and set at \$500 each. [Amy and Annie are the same person.]

**Circuit Court, November 2, 3, 4, 1881:** Sam Fitts charged on Feb. 20,1880, feloniously and violently did make an assault on Annie Carver and violently, forcibly against her will did ravish and carnally know her. Dave Key and Bill Meadows were present, aiding, abetting, assisting and encouraging Sam Fitts the crime and felony against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee. The State of Tennessee entered a nolle prosequi (discontinue action) on William Meadows and set him free. Sam Fitts and Dave Key plead not guilty before the court, refused to answer when their names were called and were ordered to pay a fine of \$5 each. The Jury found Dave Key and Sam Fitts guilty of assault with attempt to commit rape and assess their punishment to be confined in the county jail for the period of 12 months each.

# Turpin Murder Trial of 1892, Appeal, Release

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

**In a front page story that is quaint with a 19<sup>th</sup> century flowery call for justice, the March 19, 1892, *Tennessean* describes the bail hearing in Gallatin for Edward Turpin. He was accused of shooting and killing William M. Carter, a popular young man, on February 16. According to the story, Turpin held a “deep and cherished hatred” of the deceased and had even tried to shoot him 14 years earlier. It seemed like an open-and-shut case, and, indeed, a Gallatin jury later convicted Turpin of first degree murder.**

**However, that’s not the end of the story. Despite the fact that the *Tennessean* all but convicted Turpin in the press, he was acquitted in a new trial in a different venue. He was released and lived in Nashville until shortly before his death by natural causes.**

On the day of the 1892 bail hearing, people began arriving at the court house early to hear Edward Turpin’s application for bail and testimony from witnesses of the crime. Fearing violence, authorities arranged for the prisoner to be encircled by a dozen or more officers and his attorneys for his walk from the jail to the courtroom.

According to the *Tennessean*, more than a dozen witnesses testified at the trial, including at least eight eye witnesses to the murder, one of whom was the mayor. The killing took place outdoors in downtown Gallatin in front of Wooten’s Store in full view of the court house. **“John B. Alexander** was the first witness placed on the stand...He stated that he had taken a pistol from Carter’s overcoat pocket after he was shot; all chambers were loaded; that he had been with Carter the day of the killing and several days previous, and that there was no purpose on Carter’s part to do Turpin harm.

**“Clair Douglass** was next called,” the story continued, “he stated that he talked to Carter just before the killing; Turpin said something he did not hear, and Carter went up to him; Turpin was sitting down and got up and sort of backed off when John Clark stepped between them; and Carter had his right hand in his overcoat pocket, but did not attempt to draw it; Clark got out of the way and Turpin drew a pistol and began to shoot; Carter was going away when Turpin shot him in the back.”

**Charles B. Hitchcock** was also present at the shooting. He testified that after Turpin had fired the three shots, he [Turpin] said, “He can’t call me a damn bastard!”

**Col. John Clark** and **W.B. Wooten**, also present during the shooting, testified that they thought the victim might have been reaching in his pocket for his pistol when Turpin shot him. (The notion that Turpin only shot Carter because he feared for his own life was, in fact, Turpin’s defense and proved credible during appeal.) Neither Clark nor Wooten saw who fired the first shot. Wooten testified that Carter was facing him when the second shot was fired, striking him in the side, and the third shot was fired, striking him in the back.

**Mayor G.N. Guthie** was in the court house looking through the window facing Wooten’s store when the shooting occurred. He shouted to bystanders, ‘Good God, the coward shot the man in the back and him running.’ He testified that he went to where Carter was lying on the ground and heard his dying “declaration.” Carter said that Turpin accused him of calling him a “d—n son of b—ch” then shot him.

## Many Years of Hatred

Other witnesses testified that Turpin had a longstanding hatred of Carter and had vowed to kill him. **J. W. Russwurm** said, “I have heard him [Turpin] threaten to kill him...if it was the last act of his life he would kill him...he intended to kill him if he ever crossed his path or batted his eye...on one occasion I was going up Main Street, and Carter was sitting in the house of Mrs. Georgie Tomkins, and Turpin wanted to shoot Carter through the window, but I said, ‘You shan’t do anything of the kind.’”

**Lorelle Russwurm** testified that once she and Carter were on her porch when Turpin arrived, grabbed Carter and said, “Here’s the d—n son of a b—ch and I intend to blow his head off.” She said she pushed Turpin off the porch and told him, “No, you won’t.”

**Dr. X.B. Haynie** provided medical testimony, describing the entry and exit wounds on Carter’s body. He said he spoke briefly to the dying man right after the shooting, asking him, “Billie, are you shot?” Carter replied, “I am killed.”

The *Tennessean* went on to describe speeches made for the prosecution by attorney Col. Charles Head of Chattanooga and formerly of

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Gallatin and by the Hon. W.C. Dismukes, state senator from Gallatin. Obviously favoring the prosecution, the story said, "As a criminal lawyer, Mr. Head has no superior in the state. In this case his very soul was engaged. His appeal on behalf of his dead friend was eloquent and his argument for justice was 'possessed' of logical strength and power. Those great lawyers Turner, [J.J.] Vertrees and [S.F.] Wilson, with all their combined and accumulated powers of speech and brilliancy, could not break the force of Head's appeal. The court room was crowded almost to suffocation, yet the spectators hung upon the words with a deep silence from the first to the last word, and when he closed there was a spontaneous burst of applause."

It continued, "On Tuesday morning, Judge [Arthur] Munford reviewed the case and in a pointed and piercing argument refused to grant bail to "murderer Turpin." There was no use of the word "alleged" to describe Turpin.

### Biased Story Hurts Turpin

The *Tennessean* summed up by stating, "The killing of W.M. Carter by Edward B. Turpin on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February is yet fresh in the minds of our readers...let us briefly review it. Hatred for many years. Repeated threats made against a man's life. A keen desire to kill him, repeated by words of mouth and numerous and varied acts. A studied and persistent pursuit of the enemy, tracing him far and near. Continual harrasing and humiliation by open insults on the streets. Hounded to desperation and finally shot to death and, God save the mark, in the back..."

"It is said that criminal law is but the reflex of common sense, pure and simple, and it does not require a lawyer to tell us when a man deserves to be punished. The proof is ample. A law that justifies a murder, born of deep and bitter hatred, shrewdly planned by an accomplished villain to set up a case of self-defense, does violence to common sense—it is an insult to common decency.

"With time for mature deliberation, a patient hearing, a careful weighing of the facts, following the case from its inception to its present stage, from the time Turpin wanted to shoot Carter through a window 14 years ago to the fateful day when he shot him in the back, we feel absolutely secure in our position in designating the deed a foul, cold-blooded and heartless murder..."

As the *Tennessean* expected, Turpin was convicted of murder in the first degree by Judge Munford, who condemned him to death.

## Here is the Rest of the Story

Now, turn from the newspaper and go to the Southwestern Reporter V. 61 on Google, which has the rest of the story. It reported that mob violence was threatened against Turpin in Gallatin, so he was jailed in Nashville. Turpin immediately set about trying to establish grounds for appeal, namely to show that the murder was self defense. He employed W.S. Callender to find evidence. Callender apparently did not get paid for his efforts and filed suit against Turpin's estate in 1901 to get money. It is from Callendar's lawsuit, detailed in the Southwestern Reporter on Google, that we can find the rest of Turpin's story.

Callender located Turpin's friend Ella Lewis, who signed an affidavit that she told Carter before he was shot not to go after Turpin—that he [Carter] would get hurt. She affirmed that Carter replied that Turpin would be the one to get hurt.

Callender also located Officer John Frakes, who said in an affidavit that a few days before the killing Turpin had asked him for protection from Carter. Confronted by Carter as to why he was protecting Turpin, Frakes reported that he had replied, "Billy, you and Turpin are both my friends, and each of you are always cussing the other. I've done what I could to keep the peace, but if you attack Turpin you had better shoot quick or he will get you. He is always prepared."

In addition, while Turpin's motion for a new trial was pending, Turpin's attorneys learned that a juror named Williams had tried to prejudice the trial by saying repeatedly that Turpin was a murderer and ought to be hung. It was also discovered that a second juror, Jerry Turner, was in Gallatin the day of the shooting and had "expressed himself freely" with his opinions about it. The attorneys procured affidavits from those to whom Williams and Turner spoke, indicating the men's bias.

Turpin also hired a photographer to take pictures of where various eye witnesses against him stood during the shooting. From photos, Callendar was able to show that some of the witnesses could not possibly have seen what happened. They could not see Carter reach in his pocket as if for a pistol. The shooting could have been self defense.

With his fresh evidence and affidavits, Turpin received a new trial in Lebanon and was acquitted in June 1893.

He moved to Nashville where lived until July 1896 when he went to Gallatin. He got sick, and he never recovered. He died in December 1896, leaving his nephew executor of a large estate.

# Gallatin's Later Years: Service All of His Life

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

**Editor's Note:** This is the final piece of a series about the amazing life of founding father, Albert Gallatin, for whom Gallatin, Tenn., was named. The events of Gallatin's life are documented in a recent book, *Jefferson's Treasure How Albert Gallatin Saved the New Nation from Debt*, by lawyer-historian Gregory May.

Government frugality was the theme of Albert Gallatin's career as a member of Congress and then as Secretary of the Treasury, the cabinet post he held for a dozen years under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and his other work. It was, he believed, his patriotic duty to shape policies that would keep the nation on a path of solvency, allowing it to pay debts and keep taxes low. He was a visionary about public economics at a period in history when his associates better understood monarchy. Just as importantly, Gallatin could and did speak and write prodigiously, explaining his views so that others understood and followed his genius.

Despite his success as Treasury Secretary under Jefferson, Gallatin left Madison's cabinet after four years. He chose to join a small delegation going to Russia, which had offered to broker a peace settlement to end to the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Britain. He hoped to stop the conflict, which was draining the treasury, and return to the Treasury in a few months. However, by the time he reached Russia the political situation in Europe had changed. Britain declined Russian mediation; they wanted to bargain directly with American delegates. Gallatin's enemies at home refused to let him join the delegation to Britain, saying he could not be both ambassador and Treasury Secretary.

Gallatin left Russia just as Napoleon was defeated by Emperor Alexander and exiled to Elba. Again, the political situation in Europe shifted. The British, flush over Napoleon's exile, wanted to give America, which they thought pro French, a "good drubbing." Gallatin wrote, "In the intoxication of an unexpected success, which they ascribe to themselves, the English people eagerly wish that their pride be fully gratified by what they call the 'punishment of America.'"

By the summer of 1814, it appeared that Britain might succeed in the drubbing. By then, Madison had reluctantly found a permanent replacement for Gallatin as Treasury Secretary and gotten him on the peace delegation going to Britain.

From London, Gallatin wrote to James Monroe that he thought the British would try to capture Washington and Baltimore and thereby split the Union. His words proved prophetic. Word came

in October that the British had burned Washington in August.

American and British delegations had by then agreed to negotiate peace on neutral ground in the Flemish city of Ghent. Efforts stalled; British demands grew. But shortly after Washington's burning, the tide of the war began to turn in America's favor. During September, Americans demolished the British fleet before it could invade from Canada down Lake Champlain. In England, British taxpayers clamored for an end to the "prodigious expense" of the war with America. The Duke of Wellington, the victorious commander of Britain's forces in Europe, also urged peace, and his word carried weight. The Treaty of Ghent, signed on Christmas Eve 1814, ended the war. News of Andrew Jackson's January victory in New Orleans arrived in Washington at about the same time as news of the Ghent Treaty—making it seem as if New Orleans sealed America's victory.

## Gallatin Named Minister to France

By the time Gallatin returned home to his wife Hannah in 1815, he was 54 years old and unsettled. May wrote, "He was tired, and his prospects were uncertain. He had been at the center of power for 14 years, but the paths now before him were leading elsewhere."

The paths were, in fact, leading back to Europe. Gallatin was appointed American minister to France, a position he grudgingly accepted. He was not rich, and he feared his family would live in poverty in France. Nevertheless, in June 1816, after receiving financial help, he, Hannah and their three children set sail for France. Surprisingly, they found themselves quite content and enjoyed the blossoming of Paris after the Bourbon restoration. They stayed seven years.

Their homecoming to America was sad. Their old house in Pennsylvania and Gallatin's glassworks business were in complete disarray. In addition, American politics had changed. May said, "Gallatin had lost touch with American politics as well as his personal affairs." Gallatin sent a letter to Hannah after a reception at the President's House in January 1824, "Ten years is an age in Washington," he told her.

Nevertheless, insiders had not forgotten Gallatin. There was an effort to run him for vice president alongside popular presidential hopeful William Crawford. But, as May noted, "this was a washout from the start." Gallatin was a reluctant candidate, and Crawford suffered a debilitating stroke. At the Republican Convention, delegates chose Andrew Jackson as their candidate.

Gallatin and most other established Republicans were unhappy with the choice. They saw Jackson as a military leader as dangerous as Napoleon. They applauded Jackson's victory at New Orleans, but they hated his campaigns against Native Americans and recklessness. When the undecided election went to the U.S. House, John Quincy Adams was selected.

Meanwhile, Gallatin and family moved to Baltimore, where he worked on unresolved issues related to the Ghent Treaty. They also spent a year in London, and Gallatin got the British government to pay for American slaves freed during the war, to agree to arbitrate the northeastern boundary of Maine and to continue joint occupation of the Oregon territory. In the fall of 1827, they came back to the states and settled in New York near Hannah's family. Gallatin continued to work on the boundaries of Maine.

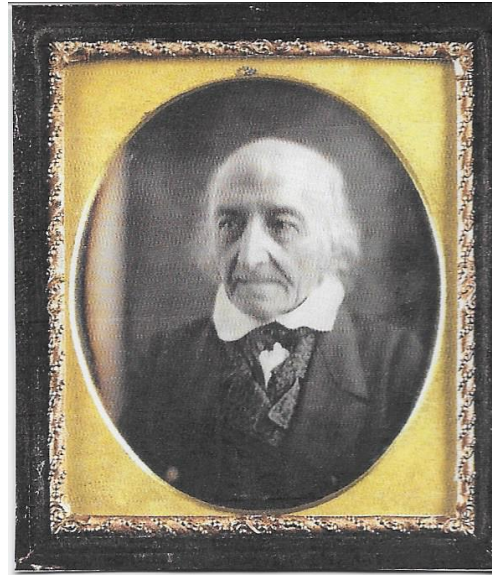
"By 1830, New York had become the largest and most important city in the United States... Although they were not very wealthy when they settled in New York, Hannah and Albert Gallatin fit easily into the city's elite," wrote May. "Hannah's family had been well-established in New York since her grandfather settled there before the Revolution, Albert was a distinguished elder statesman, and they could afford to live in the fashionable area along Broadway..."

### **Gallatin's Genius Takes New Track**

Though Gallatin continued to be interested in national politics during the Jackson years (1829-1837), he was absorbed by other subjects. "Two intellectual projects were particularly interesting to him. The first was a plan for extending university education to students of all backgrounds. The second was a study of Native American language and culture," wrote May.

Most American leaders believed education was essential to a strong republic. Gallatin and like-minded individuals also held the radical notion that a classical university education, with emphasis on Greek and Latin, should not be the only university education available. They advocated higher education in 'greater abundance and variety' and 'at a cheaper rate' to 'larger numbers,'" noted May. "Gallatin hoped the schools would teach all of their students mathematics, natural science, history and English..." subjects that would help people not born to privilege.

Gallatin had long been fascinated with Native American languages, but his research took on new depth after 1831 when the American Antiquarian Society asked him to contribute an essay to its scholarly journal. "At intervals over the next five years, Gallatin prepared a 422-page paper that he called 'A Synopsis of the Indian Tribes within the United States East of the Rocky



**Albert Gallatin by Anthony Edwards & Company  
About 1842**

Mountains,' wrote May. "It was a bold piece of work, assembling the vocabularies of 81 Native American languages that had been collected over more than a century (by Thomas Jefferson among others) and classifying them into 28 language families based on Gallatin's analysis of their linguistic characteristics. In accompanying essays, Gallatin gave an overview of the North American tribes and their histories, a commentary on Native cultures, and explanation of the philological method...The society published his paper in 1836 along with a large foldout map on which Gallatin had plotted the distribution of tribes...No one had ever produced such a comprehensive study of American aboriginal languages...the paper established Gallatin as a leader in the field...And at the age of 88, he gave the journal another long essay describing his latest investigations."

In 1848, Gallatin's health began to decline, but it was Hannah who died first. May wrote, "Albert was too weak to leave the bed in his library when Hannah Gallatin died in the bedroom next door in May 1849. Her death was a blow from which he could not recover. 'Mrs. Gallatin's 88-year-old husband still survives, read her obituary, 'a relic of the early days of freedom.' But his health 'is said to be very precarious.'"

Albert Gallatin died only three months later on Aug. 12, 1849, and was buried with his wife at Trinity Church in the Nicholson family vault. Newspapers of both political parties mourned him. "His name is linked inseparably with the history of the American republic," said the Democratic *New York Herald*. He was a "great man," said Washington's *Daily Union*.

# Braden Mulford: Founder of Highland Adventist Community

By Al Dittes

Braden Mulford started out in business and wound up being part of a unique educational experiment, teaching the gospel through enlarging a farm near Fountain Head into an agricultural center, hospital and school.

Mulford, a lay Seventh-day Adventist, was born near Essex, Iowa, Oct. 26, 1880. The Dec. 12, 1928, *Madison Survey* provides information on his life. "Over 20 years ago, Mr. Mulford was a merchant in the Middle West. He longed for an education in the classics, higher mathematics and science, and he went to Berrien Springs [Michigan] with that ambition."

He enrolled at Emmanuel Missionary College, new to rural Michigan. "I was surprised on reaching there to find the dean of the school in high boots with a pick and shovel, and the president taking a lively interest in the dairy and farm. I began to see another side of education, Mulford reported.

"Later, I came to Madison where I found a school on a 400-acre farm. I was still looking forward to a college education, but I found it was not an ordinary college. I found in operation a plan that God has wonderfully blessed, for here were college men and women teaching young people by precept and example to make an old farm blossom as a rose.

"It is the experience of those days that has held me all these years. Three years later I went into a backwoods section and took the poorest farm in the country. People pitied us and said we had made a mistake, for nothing could be grown on that old farm. Today we are raising peaches equal to those that grow in California. We have luxuriant alfalfa and soybeans that grow shoulder high. Our barns are filled with hay. When I started for Fountain Head, the station agent at Madison told me I was going there to starve to death. He knew I did not eat pork, or use tobacco. My weight is normal. I have lived nearly a quarter century on the hill, and I have neither eaten meat, nor raised tobacco, nor made whiskey.

"It is a wonderful thing to be an evangelist and preach the Word. Let us with the same enthusiasm supplement the work of the pulpit in our rural homes and sanitariums and in the cultivation of the soil of our farms."

## Mulford Went Out on His Own

After a year at the Michigan college, Mulford went to Madison to be part of a new school led by a radical young Adventist educator named Edward A. Sutherland, who had moved his Battle Creek Michigan College to Madison. Sutherland wanted to be free of politics and denominational

control. He started the Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute (N.A.N.I.) later known as Madison College and Sanitarium in 1904. His plan was to train students to start similar schools in underprivileged areas in the rural South with only a token Adventist presence.

Mulford and another Sutherland student, Charles Aiden, took this plan to heart. They bought a farm near Goodlettsville in 1906 "and developed a school, caring for the sick and teaching the children," just as Sutherland envisioned.

But a year later, Mulford decided to go out on his own. He rented a buggy in Gallatin and found a farm for sale north of the ridge. One story passed down says that he asked some children along the road nearby where they went to school. "We ain't got no school to go to," they replied. That clinched his decision to purchase this farm.



He wired his sweetheart, Miss Pearl West, about his decision and asked her to come home from teaching school in Africa to marry him. Percy T. Magan, a cofounder of the Madison enterprise, married them on June 6, 1908, according to Sumner County records. Her brother, Forrest West, and his family joined

them. Pearl Mulford started the school in her own living room by teaching her brother's children. Other neighborhood families heard about it and sent their children. This small beginning developed into the Fountain Head Industrial School and Health Retreat and later Highland Academy.

In the Nov. 24, 1910, *Southern Union Worker*, Mulford wrote, "We now have several industries well developed. Our cannery has proved a success. We are supplying several merchants with tomatoes and beans. Our sheep have done well. Our goats have made their way, and have at the same time helped us to improve the place. The farm is giving us all the feed we shall need for our stock, and our fruit room is filled with various kinds of fruit. The Lord has been good to us and has put in our hands money enough to build a cottage, and we hope also to put up a carpenter shop this winter. We are now preparing to put out about 500 peach trees. We are plowing and then sub soiling. We are taking every pain



with this as we think our land is favorable to the raising of peaches.”

In the March 23, 1911, *Southern Union Worker*, Mulford said the chief aim of Madison-affiliated schools such as his “is to give a complete gospel in the highlands. . . The work being done by these schools is of a very practical nature, and includes schoolroom work, agriculture, fruit raising, etc.”

His brother-in-law Forrest West added, “The raising of fruit is one of the industries in the highland schools, and careful study of the question has been made by the teachers in the Fountain Head Industrial School. Students are given instruction in class, and experience in the orchard. “

The work of Mulford and West made an impact on the community. About 20 years later, at a public meeting called to garner support for erecting a new hospital building on the campus, George Venters, president of the Farmers Bank in Portland, recalled the 1908 dedication of the first school building.

“After the service I walked over the farm with some other people. It was really no farm, just a pile of clay,” he said. “I felt a deep sympathy for Mr. West and Mr. Mulford for trying to earn a living from that soil. But these men have shown us the ways to do something without rich soils that bring surprising results. They held meetings on their own farm, bringing together hundreds of men to study soil conditions. They had field demonstrations to let us see. They showed us what lime will do when we knew nothing about it. They planted an orchard of 500 peach trees. The rest of us sat back and smiled, but later men came miles to buy peaches from the knob, peaches that fairly melted in your mouth. None of us believed it could be done, but they did it.”

The lay Adventists knew that the local people needed health care as well as schools, and they set about trying to provide it. A donor came forward with money for them to build a sanitarium in 1916, the first of its kind in Sumner County. The sanitarium relieved suffering and gave a financial foundation to Adventist enterprises.

“When we located at Fountain Head, people thought we were too far removed from city life and centers of population to conduct a sanitarium,” Mulford wrote in the Nov. 17, 1926, *Madison Survey*. “Roads were poor in those days and the distance did seem almost prohibitive, but changes came...The Fountain Head campus is now on a state highway. It is an easy drive from Nashville, and we have patients from there. People can also easily reach us from the north.” By 1928 it was known as the Fountain Head Health Retreat.

In addition to running the school and sanitarium, Mulford began growing strawberries. In the March 9, 1928 *Portland Herald*, he wrote a story, “Growing and Marketing Strawberries on the Highland Rim,” noting that “in the last five years, Portland, Fountain Head, and a few other towns shipped 2,200 car loads of berries, 400 crates per car, bringing \$3.5 million into the community.

In a 1928 WLAC radio broadcast, Mulford spoke of his Adventist enterprise, saying, “I am from Fountain Head. . . the highest point between Cincinnati and the Gulf, on the Louisville and Nashville Railway. Although it is only from five to 20 miles in width, the Highland Rim holds in her bosom every phase of mountain lore. There are the wooded hills, the rocky cliffs, the dancing mountain streams, the thousand springs bursting from the solid rock, and the mountain folk who point to the trail of Daniel Boone and the spot where he roasted his venison. It is in the midst of these scenes that we located our sanitarium, which functions upon the well-established principles of Battle Creek Sanitarium and the Madison Rural Sanitarium. From any one of the 38 rooms that will be in our new building when it is completed, one may look directly upon the great our-of-doors.”

He continued, “Here we have a school, where, in addition to the rudiments of education, each student is given experience and instruction in various industries... We are endeavoring to make the country so attractive that our boys and girls will prefer to remain by the old farm, producing better crops than did Dad before them, having better cows and more conveniences in the home.”

Fire destroyed the original sanitarium Feb. 2, 1928. The community rallied behind Mulford and rebuilt a nicer facility. A Feb. 9, 1935, fire destroyed this structure. Due to financial difficulties resulting from The Great Depression, the sanitarium had not kept up its insurance. Fund raising this time around proved more difficult, and Mulford never recovered from this loss. He and West turned the Fountain Head enterprise over to others in 1937, and he and his wife moved to Monteagle, Tenn. They started another school in Grundy County, then took over a nursing home there named Wrens Nest in 1942. He died on Feb. 23, 1954, and is buried in Monteagle.

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of SDA took over the institution in 1945 and changed the name to Highland Academy and Highland Elementary School. Highland Hospital served the community for years and eventually became part of the TrtiStar Health system, reopening as a full-service emergency room in 2014.

## **(HENDERSON, Continued from Page 1)**

Main Street bridge is today. The second tract of 150 acres was purchased in October 1800 from William Hankins and described as where Hankins now lives, so it included a home of some sort. It was located directly south and adjoining the larger tract. The actual home was reportedly located on the west bank of Drake's Creek. Henderson also owned another 50 acres of land to the west and a little further south of the lower tract, but not adjoining the other two, purchased in April 1802 from the Espeys.

William wrote his will on Oct. 28, 1806, stating that he was in good health and of sound mind, but he died just a few months later on Feb. 8, 1807. His will proved him to be a large landowner with many slaves. He made bequests of land to his sons, gave cash to his daughters and slaves to all of them. He made provisions for his wife Locky and his youngest children. His original will survives and is preserved at the Sumner County Archives in Gallatin.

The 360 acres he owned on Cedar Lick Creek were to be used to pay his debts. That creek is in Wilson County, once a part of Sumner County. He left his wife the 250 acres that he bought from William Hankins. There were 26 slaves inventoried in his estate, recorded in June 1807. Some were distributed to each child. He willed that the remainder be divided after the death of his wife Locky. He left a very wealthy widow with four young children to rear.

His son, Bennett, along with Daniel Littleton and Edward Saunders, served as executors of his estate, and Locky served as executrix. Bennett took over his dad's job as postmaster on July 1, 1807, serving until July 1, 1811 when his brother, Littleton, accepted the job.

In January of 1808, Bennett and his brother William sold a Negro woman named Maria, now called Nancy, to his mother Locky for \$300 for her use during her widowhood. Then to be divided among her remaining 10 children.

On Jan. 16, 1811, Locky remarried in Sumner County to Albert Russell with her son, Bennett Henderson, as bondsman. Albert was born May 25, 1755, in Virginia and served as a Lieutenant in the Virginia Continental line. NSDAR records list Albert Russell with four wives. The last one is identified as Mrs. Henderson. In December 1814, Albert Russell was in Sumner County when he purchased a Negro girl Senea for \$350 from Bennett Henderson as executor of the estate of William Henderson.

Another surviving letter dated in September of 1815 solved the mystery of where Albert and Locky Trigg Henderson Russell went when they left Sumner County. It was written to Paulina

Henderson, the eldest of the three William Henderson daughters, in Maury County from "Your affectionate sister, Rachel Henderson" in Nashville. In the letter, Rachel thanked "Colonel Russell and your mama" for their kindness and attention to her. Rachel is not a sister to Pauline, but, as will be seen, a sister-in-law, wife of Libourne Lewis Henderson. The letter also indicated that Pauline was about to marry a Mr. Perkins.

Col. Albert Russell was known to be living in Maury County as early as June 1809 when his southeast corner was mentioned in a deed from Charles Polk to Abram Hammons, indicating that it was part of a grant to Ezekiel Polk. In August of 1815, Russell purchased 83 acres on Rutherford Creek from Nicholas Perkins Sr. of Williamson County. In January of 1816, Colonel Russell of Maury County sold 492.5 acres, on which he lived, to William Winter of Nashville. In that deed, it indicated that he'd purchased the land in December 1809 from Charles and Tabitha Polk. The Russells then moved to Huntsville, Alabama, where he had already purchased land on September 19, 1815, from Rory and Edith Pope. He died on June 27, 1818. Locky's death took place on June 27, 1825, probably in Huntsville, Alabama.

### **The Henderson Children, Grandchildren**

The Henderson children are listed below, as named in his will. Sumner County was not "home" to them, so it is not surprising that with their father deceased and their mother remarried and living in Maury County, most of them left Sumner County.

**John C. Henderson** was born in October 1780. He died by October of 1807 in Sumner County. His widow, Edness Henderson, went to court to attest to his death in November 1808. Edness (Saunders) Henderson submitted an inventory to the Sumner County Court. It included five slaves and a yoke of oxen. His father left him 640 acres, but he indicated that John had already sold that land. It was on Sanders Fork, a branch of Smith Fork. Smith Fork is located in Smith County, also once part of Sumner. In July 1807, there was a lawsuit over this issue when Bennett sued his brother John C. in regards to a \$500 debt that John C. had promised to pay his father. A jury later found that money was owed to Bennett Henderson. Children: William Saunders Henderson born in 1803 and died in 1841 and Marcus Henderson born in 1806.

**Bennett Hilsman Henderson** was born in February 1782. He was married on June 23, 1810, in Sumner County, to Lucinda Shelby, with

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## **(HENDERSON, Continued from Page 10)**

John Shelby as bondman. William Henderson left him a lot in Gallatin to be improved with a house. Bennett's children were: Malvina Henderson born in 1812, Priscilla Henderson born in 1813 and Bennett Henderson born in 1825.

**William Trigg Henderson** was born in May 1784. He was married in Sumner County on August 6, 1804, to Eliza J. Smith, with James L. Armstrong as bondsman. His father left him 640 acres, land purchased on March 11, 1799, from Philemon Thomas, of Mason County, Kentucky. The land fell in to Wilson County when it was formed in October of that same year, 1799. Eliza died, and he was married a second time to Jane Saunders.

**Libourne Lewis Henderson**, was born in November 1786. On Aug. 16, 1814, he married Rachel Trigg in Washington County, Virginia. She was reportedly born Rachel Findlay and was the widow of another William Trigg, not Libourne's brother. William Henderson left his son, Libourne, 525 acres on Mulherrin Creek, land that he bought from John Gregory.

**Abram Granville Henderson** was born July 1788 and married Dorothy Smith. His father's will gave him 640 acres, due from General James Robertson, but he gave his executors the power to sell it for Abram's education.

**Daniel Littleton Henderson** was born in December 1790. He was married in Sumner County on December 10, 1810, to Margie Holmes, with Abram Byrd as bondsman. On May 13, 1819, he married Polly Findlay in Washington County, Virginia. His father left two tracts of land to him and his brother, Arthur Mosley. One was the 220 acres he purchased from David Shelby, and the other was the 150 acres purchased from William Hankins, the two home tracts intended for them after Locky's death.

**Arthur Mosley Henderson** was born in June 1795 and married Anne Frances Russell.

**Pauline Ann "Polly" Henderson** was born in August 1797 to William and Locky, who by that time had six sons. Pauline was married first about 1815, possibly in Maury County, Tennessee where she was living, to Nicholas Perkins. They had no children. When and where he died remains a mystery, but on June 22, 1833, she was married as Paulina A. Perkins to Dr. Dudley Dunn in Shelby County, Tennessee. Dudley died in 1848 in Shelby County. In 1850, Paulina lived in Shelby County as the head of her household. She gave her age as 52 and listed

her real estate value at \$20,000. A son, David L. Dunn, born in 1837 in Tennessee, lived with her. Pauline wrote her will in Memphis, Shelby County, on Dec. 29, 1856, leaving her estate to her son. Her will stated that if he died without issue, two nieces were to inherit. They were Locky Irwin Perkins and Paulina M Word.

**Elizabeth Marie "Eliza" Henderson**, was born on Dec. 6, 1799. She married Robert Fearn, Sr., who was a merchant in New Orleans and later Memphis. Robert died in Huntsville, Alabama. In 1860, Marie was living in the household of her son, Robert, in Huntsville. Marie died on April 15, 1863, also in Huntsville, and she is buried with her husband in Maple Hill Cemetery. They had several children and many descendants.

**Locky Malinda Henderson** was born in April 1803. Nothing certain was found about her life. It is a mystery for someone else to solve.

**Editor's Note: With this story, Hendersonville genealogist Shirley Wilson has given Sumner County the most complete record yet written of Hendersonville's namesake. She provides a lengthy record of her research in footnotes that can be seen with this story on the Sumner County Tennessee Historical Society website, at [sctnhs.org](http://sctnhs.org).**

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## **Archives Seeks Old Photos, Clippings, Records**

Sumner County Archives, located in Gallatin, looks for old photographs of Sumner County sites and families as well as news clippings or records about various events. Photographs of rural settings, houses and farms are rare and much appreciated. If you have inherited boxes of old pictures, boxes of news articles that someone in your family thought should be kept or diary accounts, please consider either giving them to the Archives or allowing the Archives to scan them and include them in its files. Archive files will keep them safe for you, your family and others to see. If you have questions, please contact the Archives at 615-452-0037.

Also, if you have additional information about any of the stories in this publication, please do not hesitate to contact the Archives or the historical society (615-461-8830). For example, if you happen to know more about the William Henderson family, Albert Gallatin, 19<sup>th</sup> century trials or other subjects you have seen in this publication, please let us know. Add to our knowledge and help us preserve the historic past accurately with no fake news!

*Sumner County Historical Society*

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