

Days Of Old Sumner County

Newsletter No. 17, January 2017
Sumner County Historical Society

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Clary Brings Sense of Local History to Job

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

New Hendersonville Mayor Jamie Clary—author of *City by the Lake Volume II: A History of Hendersonville from 1968 to 1988*, journalist, development consultant and longtime contributor to this newsletter—found that his knowledge of the city's past prepared him to better answer questions about the issues it faces now.

His November swearing-in ceremony was preceded by months of campaigning during which he discovered that writing a city's history boosts a candidate's credibility.



Mayor Jamie Clary

"People wanted to hire someone who understood the job and the environment of the city," said Clary, who was also an alderman for four years. "It put them at ease when they found out I'd written a history of Hendersonville."

Conducting historical research taught him to thoroughly check information, to consider its source and question conventional

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Howard Female Academy from the photo collection of Ken Thomson

Educating Girls Here 200 Years Ago

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

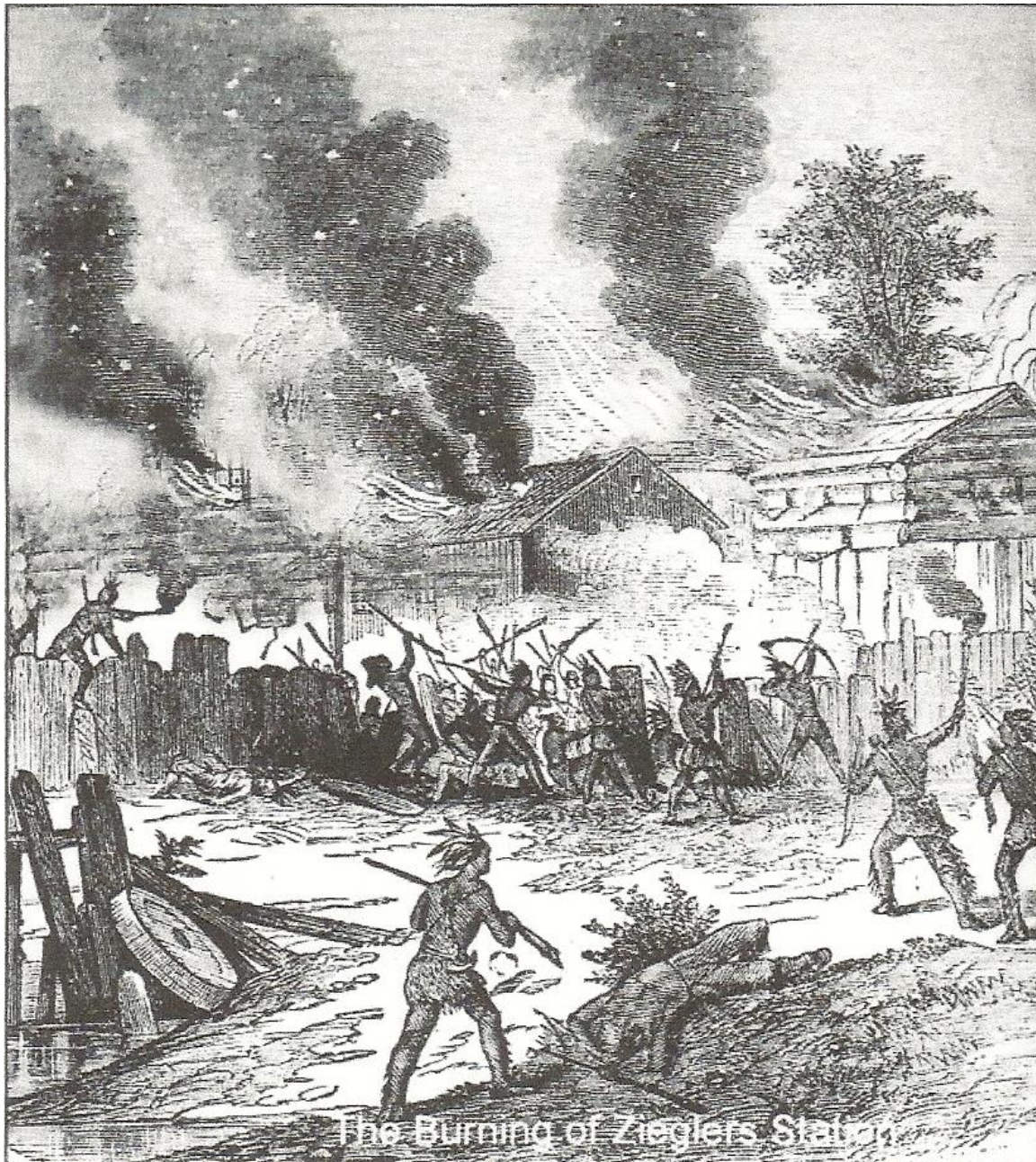
Though Sumner's educational arena was certainly male dominated 200 years ago, females were not overlooked. As early as 1824, Gallatin Female Academy offered girls classes that were an "approximate equivalent of today's elementary and high school class work," according to the late State Historian Walter Durham in his 1974 book, *A College for this Community*.

Gallatin Female Academy, once located on East Main in Gallatin, is perhaps best known to history because it included Eliza Allen among its 1824 attendees. Eliza became the bride of Gov. Sam Houston in 1829 in a marriage that was notorious for lasting only three months and for culminating with Eliza's hasty retreat back home, Houston's resignation and flight, scandalous allegations and eventual divorce.

Nothing is known about the day-to-day operation of the old Gallatin Female Academy or about the exact date or circumstance of its founding. Contemporary newspapers note that in 1829 the school had 80 students, a headmaster by the name of Charles Jeffries and three teachers—Mrs. Hunt, Miss Lewis and Miss Bledsoe.

If you fast forward to from 1829 to 1836, you find that in January of that year the school was granted a charter of incorporation by the State Legislature. School trustees, after procuring "a large amount" of funding, erected in 1837 a big, two-story brick school house in Gallatin on East Main Street on property that later became Howard Elementary. While constructing the building, the trustees also changed the name, Gallatin Female Academy, to Sumner Female

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What Happened to the Zigler Family?

By Bonnie Martin

What happened to the remaining Zigler family after the tragic burning of Jacob Zigler's Station and his death in June 1792?

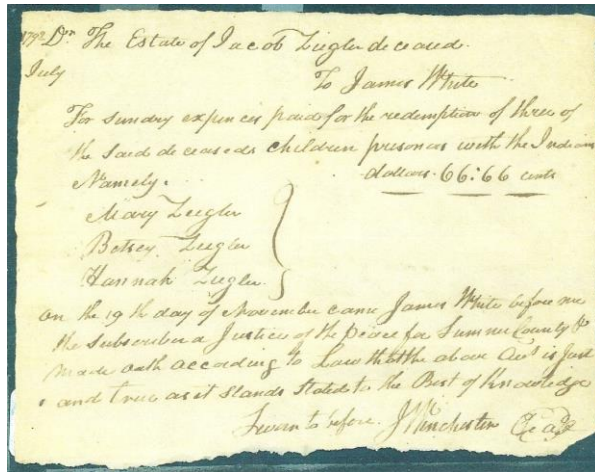
In the Great Leap Westward, the late historian Walter Durham relates the story of the Indian attack on the Sumner County fort, noting that settlers fled or were captured after the building was set afire. Jacob and Christina (Christana) Zigler's small daughters—Mary, age 6, Elizabeth (Betsy), age 4 and Hannah, age 2—were carried off by the Indians through the wilderness

into what is now Wilson County. An armed pursuit led by General James Winchester and Colonel Edward Douglas followed the Indians across the Cumberland River. Narration in *Early Times in Tennessee* describes the children's muddy, bare footprints found at an abandoned Indian encampment near the present day city of Lebanon. The pursuing settlers halted the chase for fear the captives would be killed.

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Later, Zigler family members and friends paid a ransom to return the captives to their families. In Sumner County Archives' court papers is a request from James White dated 1792 asking the estate of Jacob Ziegler for reimbursement for the children's ransom money, \$66.66.



Above is the original court document

Christina Zigler escaped during the attack, hiding in the brush with her baby John. Reportedly, Christina stuffed a cloth in the baby's mouth to stifle his cries. Christina, (b.1762), received widow dower rights of 102 acres from her husband Jacob's original tract of 640 acres. Her life as a frontier widow with four small children must have been challenging, probably desperate. It is not surprising that she remarried soon. Her new husband, whom she married in 1794, was named Henry Morris. In 1806, Christina's dowry right of 102 acres was registered by him.

With her second marriage, poor Christina may have jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. One can only speculate as to the state of the marriage and the character of Henry Morris from early court records:

In 1796, defendant Henry Morris was found to owe a plaintiff \$80 in damages.

In 1798, Henry was fined 92 cents for profane swearing.

In 1798, in *The State vs Henry Morris*, Morris was charged with branding a heifer not his own. The jury acquitted Morris, finding that the heifer could not be proven to be the property of others.

In April 1800, in *The State vs Henry Morris*, Morris was charged with petit larceny. As court records quaintly put it, Morris "with force and arms being seduced by the instigation of the Devil did steal about a bushel and half of wheat, value six pence," the property of David Wilson. Morris was found guilty but escaped before sentencing.

In 1802, Morris was apprehended in Davidson County and committed to jail in Sumner County. Sentence was passed, "Henry Morris to be taken to the public whipping post by the Sherriff, there receive 39 lashes well laid on his bare back."

Morris was sued again in 1804 for failure to build a house for James King. In 1805, Morris, who then had at least two aliases, got in trouble again. In *The State vs Morris*, the Grand Jury was informed of the "orphan boy John Zeigler about 12 or 13 years old under the care of Joshua Morris whose character is infamous; process issue agt. Joshua alias Henry alias Absolom Morris to bring boy to court. Said orphan was apprenticed." Morris was discharged but paid court costs.

Christina Morris appeared in Sumner County 1820 census records as head of a household but did not appear in the 1830 census. Henry Morris did not appear in the Sumner County census in 1820. It is unknown what date Christina died or where she is buried.

John's Fate Is Recorded

As reported above young John Zigler (Sigler) surfaced in Sumner County court records in 1804 as an "orphan" with Henry Morris. He was bound as an apprentice to Thomas Schackleford to learn the trade of bricklaying. When he was 21, John served in the War of 1812 under Andrew Jackson as a private in 2nd Regiment Tennessee Militia. John married Lucy Dodson in 1822 and fathered three children with Lucy. After Lucy's death in 1853, John married Elizabeth Burton. In the 1860 Davidson County census, John was listed with \$30,000 in his personal estate and \$163,000 in real estate. John passed away in 1862 and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville.

Mary Zigler Mysteriously Disappeared

The Zigler girls, Elizabeth and Hanna, cannot be found in later records. Their sister, Mary Zigler, married John Lester in 1803. Mary had four boys, the oldest boy named Siegler after her father Jacob Zigler. In 1845, Mary and John Lester lived on the farm of their son, Siegler Lester, in Douglas County, Ill. According to *Find A Grave*, a twist of fate led Mary full circle back to that tragic day in 1792. Sometime in 1845, Mary went for water from the nearby Okaw River. When Mary didn't return, a search ensued, but no trace of Mary was found. Her family decided that she must have been taken by Indians (again) or animals. Mary does not have a grave. However, records show that she was much loved by her family.

Despite the fearful events of their childhood, Mary and John Zigler appear to have made successful lives for themselves with cherished spouses and children.

Shannon Traces Holmes' Family History

By Paula Shannon and Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Editor's Note: Paula Lee Shannon, after teaching Physical Education for 30 years in Sumner County retired and now works part time as a Library Clerk in the Bailey Museum at the Portland Public Library. Her family has lived in Sumner County for more than 200 years. In researching the Holmes side of her family, she discovered that the family had been on American soil from the 1770s. Shannon has been interested in history and genealogy since high school. Her fascination with genealogy led her to form the Portland Genealogy Club that meets at the Portland Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

"Nathaniel Holmes is our family's immigrant," reported Shannon. "He was born about 1720 in Rapahoe Parish, County Donegal, Ireland."

Nathaniel, a weaver by trade, and wife, Mary, and five children (Robert, James, Albert, Catherine and Elizabeth) immigrated to the Scot-Irish Presbyterian community of Forks of Brandywine near Philadelphia in 1771. Paula Shannon is the direct descendant of Robert, who fought in the Revolutionary War alongside his brother, James. But it was Albert who came first to Sumner County. He arrived here in 1797 (or thereabouts), was listed in court records for jury duty as early as 1801 and presumably paved the way for his brothers to locate here.

Robert Holmes: Revolutionary Soldier

Robert married Marjory Bell on Oct. 10, 1781. Shannon discovered the names of their 12 children, some of whom died young.

Robert fought in the Revolutionary War, but for unknown reasons did not receive a land grant in payment. He did receive a veteran's pension. Shannon found his pension application, dated Aug. 20, 1832, which included his testimony of service. He reported that he was a volunteer under Captain Cochran for a tour of three months. They marched first to Wilmington, then to Trenton, Princeton, Brunswick and on to the New Blazing Star, where they exchanged fire with the Hessians.

Shannon tracked down Robert Holmes' property, which wasn't easy because Sumner County split in the mid 19th century, and records were hard to find. "The Holmes' land is in the northeastern part of Sumner County in the Trammel Creek area," said Shannon. "But as early as 1834, settlers of northern Smith County and Sumner County were trying to form a new county because it was too far to go to Carthage or to Gallatin on county business."

Robert and his son, Albert Garner Holmes (called Garner or Gardner) signed a petition in favor of a new county, which in 1842 became Macon County. Thus, Robert Holmes' land, formerly listed as being in Sumner, was then listed as being in Macon.

Garner and Milly Holmes

No one seems to know why Albert Garner was called by his middle name or where the name came from. Shannon theorized that it came from the wife of a neighbor, Mary Ann Gardner Sloan. Her husband, John Sloan, fought in the Revolutionary War in the same regiment as Robert Holmes, and John Sloan was the original owner of the land Robert bought. "Of course, there is no proof," Shannon said.

Garner Holmes, Shannon's direct descendant, married Milly Turner on Oct. 15, 1824, in Sumner County. He was 20. She was almost 14. Garner and Milly had 11 children. One of the children, another Albert, moved to Missouri and served in the Union army. Two of the children, Robert Yancey and Calvin Baker, served in the Confederate army. Garner and Milly both died in 1854, so they were spared seeing this deep division among their children.

While researching her family tree, Shannon unearthed an interesting, hither-to-unknown fact about Milly's lineage. Milly's father was Yancey Turner, the son of Thomas Yancey and Susannah Turner, who never married. This Yancey Turner—Milly's grandfather and Shannon's four times great grandfather—is listed in the 1860 census as owning 10 slaves.

Calvin Holmes: Wrongly Listed as Deserter

Calvin Baker Holmes, Shannon's direct descendant, enlisted in the Confederate army on Sept. 1, 1862, at the age of 24. He was a private in Tennessee Calvary Regiment, Company E and also served in Company F in the 20th Tennessee Calvary. Within months of enlisting, he was sent home on sick leave. In June 1863, while still at home, he was captured by the Federals.

"I saw in my research that Calvin and Robert were both listed as deserters at Murfreesboro," said Shannon, noting that this listing was inaccurate. "Their pension file sheds light on this. It says that they were both sick, and the lieutenant in charge told them to go home to recuperate. Evidently, this order did not get written down, so when they came back to the war they could not find the same company and went with another group."

(See HOLMES, Page 5)

HOLMES, Continued from Page 4

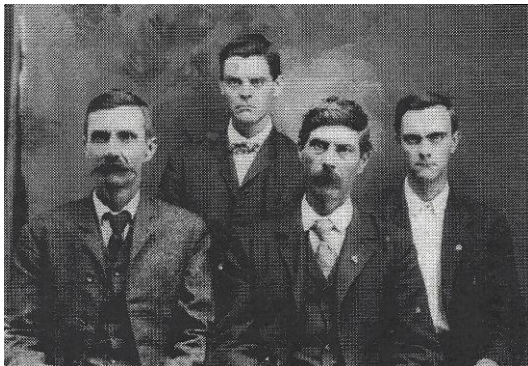
Calvin, born Dec. 16, 1838, married Amanda M. Rippy. The couple lived in the Angel Town area of Sumner County, and Calvin was listed in the 1880 census as a farmer. He and Amanda had 11 children, the oldest of whom was Atalanzo, called ATA or Lonnie, born on Nov. 21, 1865. He was Shannon's great grandfather.

Calvin died on June 10, 1915, and Amanda died on Nov. 15, 1932, and both were buried in the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church Cemetery.

"I visited the Mt. Vernon Methodist Church Cemetery in 2016. Many of the Holmes family are buried there," said Shannon. "I found Calvin and Amanda's grave stones. Calvin had the name and dates on his, but Amanda's did not have her death date. I found some information that said Amanda died in 1913, but after looking more I found her death certificate, listing that she died on Nov. 15, 1932. I don't know why her date was not put on her stone, maybe because it was around depression time. Anyway, I hired Lafayette Monument Co. to carve the death date on her stone."

ATA Holmes: Farmer

Shannon traced ATA Holmes through various deeds. He and his wife, Sallie Beasley, bought a farm in Robertson County in 1892, letting daughter Kathleen and her husband, Atlas Norman, live with them.



Front (l. to r) ATA Holmes, Charles W. and Harry C. Holmes, (back) Yancey Holmes.

"The family grew tobacco, food for the family and vegetables to sell. ATA was a farmer who had no modern machines, just animal power and family labor," said Shannon. "He attended faithfully Pleasant Hill Baptist Church and was a Deacon. It is said that the pastor once asked all who

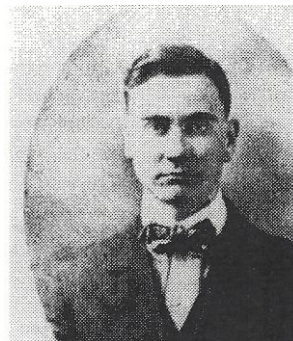
believed that Jonah swallowed a whale to stand up. ATA quickly stood up, not thinking, and caused a big laugh."

Sallie, a large woman, may have been part Cherokee though there is no proof. She drove a car while ATA stuck to a buggy. After his death, she bought herself a 1936 Plymouth Coupe and was known to breeze through the Hwy. 52 stop sign when traveling to the farm.

In 1904, ATA and Sallie bought a house and seven acres across from what is now Orlinda Baptist Church and moved to town.

Russell Holmes: End of the Family Line

Sallie and ATA's five children included Shannon's grandfather, Russell Baker Holmes, born in 1900 and dead of tuberculosis in 1925. "The story was always told to me that Russell, Morris (his brother) and ATA all died of TB," Shannon said.



Russell Baker Holmes

"Mother was two years old, so she had no memory of him [Russell]. He was an insurance agent for Jefferson Standard Life when he got sick...He and my grandmother went to a sanitarium in El Paso, Texas, trying to cure his disease. I have his wallet with a picture of him in the bed there...[After his death] my grandmother began teaching school and lived at the home place with her mother, father, sister and brother and raised my mother with the help of family. Mother was Mary Russell Holmes," she said. Her father's death marked the end of Shannon's Holmes family line.

Mary Holmes married Shannon's dad, Robert Lanier Shannon, in 1944. After a brief stint teaching agriculture in Westmoreland, Robert Shannon and his family moved back to Portland, where he opened a Firestone store and later went into business with his father, H.K., in the Shannon Insurance and Real Estate.

Portland's Rise of Industrial Growth Started in the 1950s

By Al Dittes

As Portland's Strawberry Crate Co. wound down operations and finally closed in 1951, city fathers pushed harder than ever before for companies to come to Portland. They offered incentives, courted possible business opportunities and developed infrastructure—such as the start in 1950 of dial telephone service, a natural gas system and in 1951 a new water filtration plant.

These and other efforts paid off. The Sandye Shirt Co. factory opened Feb. 8, 1954. Nashville's Davis Cabinet Co., expressed interest in opening a factory in Portland. To make Davis Co. happen, the city approved \$200,000 in revenue bonds April 7, 1958, and voters agreed in 1959 to \$300,000 in industrial revenue bonds for a factory building. The town purchased 30 acres of land, gave the bank collateral on City Hall and a fire engine, moved a cemetery off the site, paid the \$19,745 cost of a railroad spur and passed a \$75,000 industrial revenue supplement to the original bond issue all to erect the plant. Davis Cabinet Co. opened Oct. 31, 1959, with three-quarters of a million feet of lumber ready for the dry kiln for processing into furniture parts. The plant started out employing 30 people and immediately began training 150 more.

By November 1959, Portland boasted of having gone from a rural agriculture community to having \$1 million in industrial plants in five years.

Then in November 1962, reports surfaced that Lawnlite Corp. of Hialeah, Fla. had chosen Portland as a location for an aluminum lawn furniture plant costing \$1.2 million and employing 700 people. The next month, Sumner County voters approved \$400,000 in bonds to build the plant. Portland bought 31.5 acres from Mr. and Mrs. F. Burns Dunn for the Lawnlite factory site and later approved \$50,000 in bonds to lay water lines to the Lawnlite property and build a 75,000 gallon upright tank for water storage. Lawnlite started making aluminum stepladders for Sears Roebuck in 1967.

Why Did They Choose Portland?

Portland's infrastructure, proximity to railroads and State Route 109 originally attracted its industries, but it was the construction of I-65 that gave it an industrial boost over Hendersonville and Gallatin. Though only a small portion of I-65 passes through the county, two exits are within 10 miles of Portland. Gallatin is much farther away, and Hendersonville grew up residentially with little room or desire for much industry.

Portland also had city officials familiar with government operations. The first was Watt Hardison. The second was Fred White, elected

mayor of Portland in 1967. He carried Hardison's work to new levels.

On Jan. 27, 1969, Portland approved a contract with True Temper, hired Larry Collins to do the site excavation work and formed the Industrial Development Board the next month.

A '70s Industrial Spree

In April 1971, Stevison Ham announced plans to locate a \$300,000 plant in Portland to produce packaged hams.

In 1973, Kirby Building System, Inc. of Houston, Texas, located a \$3 million plant on 66 acres beside the L&N Railroad in Portland. The city incentivized Kirby by upgrading waterlines, natural gas lines and roads in the area, installing a water reserve tank and other construction.

In 1974, Kentucky Electronics of Owensboro purchased Collins Tool & Die, merging into a new Portland subsidiary, Precision Industries.

In 1975, Portland issued \$600,000 in industrial revenue bonds to build a plant for Knight Metalcraft, Inc., a division of CPL Ins. of East Providence, R.I., a manufacturer of electric ground rods for the electric utility industry.

In 1978, Western Enterprise, a plastic ejection molding operation employing 150 people in Avon Lake, Ohio, moved to Portland.

Then Fleet Design, an injection molding shop shaping various plastic automotive parts, announced it would come to Portland. City fathers applied to the state highway department for an industrial access road to the new plant.

In 1979, Hospital Disposables Inc. of Nashville, a maker of hospital supplies, opened in Portland. Also, Tennessee Shirt Works announced plans to build a new \$250,000 plant on Highway 109 employing 509 people. Also in 1979, Flex Plastics Inc. of Midvale, Ohio, moved to a \$1 million, 20,000 square foot plant on Longview Dr. to produce plastic components for the automotive industry. In addition, GAMCO Products of Henderson, Ky., announced it would open a 20,000 square foot plant on Kirby Road.

In 1980, Appleton Wire Co., part of Albany International Co. of Appleton, Wisc., bought a 25-acre site from the John Freedle farm to locate a \$1 million automated plant to manufacture woven belting for the fine bond paper industry.

By 1980, Mayor Bill Rawls could describe Portland as an "industrial and residential

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magnet.” He reported that there were 22 industries in town earning \$20 million a year and employing more than 3,000 people. Lawnlite employed 400 people, more than any other business. Portland’s population grew from 2,872 to 3,980 in the 1970s.

The ‘80s and ‘90s Continue Trend

Tsubakimoto Engineering of America, Inc., with manufacturing ties to Nissan, Toyota, New United Motors, Mazda, Fuji Heavy Industries, Sony, Toshiba, Hitachi and Nippon Steel, announced in January 1987 that it would locate a \$950,000 plant in Portland and invest \$1.05 million in equipment to produce material handling systems and industrial automation equipment for the Japanese automotive industry. Tsubaki chose Portland because of an already existing Collins-owned building adaptable to its needs.

Then in perhaps the high point of Portland’s industrial recruitment, city fathers approved \$10 million in industrial revenue bonds Feb. 24, 1987, to acquire property, construct and equip a manufacturing and distribution facility for Yamakawa Manufacturing Co. of America, a manufacturer of pressed auto parts. Yamakawa changed its name to Unipres U.S.A. in 1998.

Electro Coating, Inc., opened on Kirby Road in 1988 to paint automotive and machine components as well as furniture parts in a 64,000 square foot facility employing 11 people. Challenger, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Corp., occupied a 130,000 square foot Collins Construction Co. building in May 1990 and announced it would transfer 200 jobs from Parkersburg, W. Va., and Albemarle, N.C., to Portland to manufacture electrical switchboxes. MPG, a producer of printed materials, and Marubeni, a steel manufacturer affiliated with Yamakawa, located in Portland soon after. Heritage Graphics bought this site from MPG in 1998 to print 2 million copies of a regional *TV Guide* as well as a variety of crossword puzzles. Peyton’s, the general merchandise warehouse division of Kroger, cited the centralized location of Portland as reason to build a huge, 200,000 square foot facility in 1991 to distribute non-food items to Kroger stores across the United States.

These industries transformed the economy of Portland and made it a marvel for the state in attracting industry. By 1999, 50 plants employed 5,000 people, and the city’s population topped 10,000 in a special census done in 2004.

CLARY, Continued from Page 1

wisdom. It taught him where to find facts, but also that their interpretation varies from person to person, depending on their background.

“Hendersonville is currently experiencing a growth spurt like it did in the 1970s. People are coming here from places that offer different government services. Like the newcomers of the ‘70s, the people moving here now have different expectations than the folks who have been here for some time,” Clary said.

He noticed trends and local growth patterns. “Hendersonville has been shifting eastward and away from Davidson County for decades,” he said. “You see from building applications where businesses and schools are being built. Construction moves down the path of least resistance, open land, rather than back to where you have 50-year-old sidewalks and streets.”

He pointed out that construction on West Main has historically been inhibited by utility placement 60 to 70 years ago. “Much of West Main, from Walton Ferry to the Davidson Co. line, does not have sewer access, and that restricts use.”

He noted that Hendersonville’s history with the Army Corps of Engineers’ control of Old Hickory Lake and Dam, CSX railroads and the Tennessee Department of Transportation shaped its development. “For example, what if they’d put the dam two miles upstream? There would be no Indian Lake peninsula, and the oldest part of town might be Bluegrass or Cages Bend,” he said

Clary Book Chronicles Years of the City

Clary’s *The City by the Lake Vol. II*, published in 1999, provides the history of the incorporated city. Incorporation took place in 1969 after a 1968 referendum. From 1968 to ‘88, Hendersonville went from a tiny community to the state’s tenth largest city.

Clary includes the anecdotes of dozens of Hendersonvillians, who gave the city the character it retains today. He also notes missed opportunities that led to some of current problems, such as Main Street traffic. He relates the city’s successes: low tax rates, good schools, excellent recreational facilities and a sense of pride in the community.

Clary’s book was written to follow an earlier Volume I by Tim Tackas, Hendersonville attorney and another contributor to this newsletter. Tackas covered the early years of the city and asked Clary to take up the story where he left off.



From the photo collection of Ken Thomson is the Howard Female College (Academy) graduating class of 1902. Pictured are: (front, l. to r.) Nannie Chenault Berry, Freddie Wallace, Lalia Mae Ramsey, Grayce M. Gossom, Sadie R. Bates, Clara Mary Bates, (back, l. to r.) Mary E. Livar, Susie Shapperd, Clemmie Albright, Carrie Mae Purdy, Stella Brown, Lula Ferrell Worsham, Louise Elizabeth Baker.

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Academy and got a new charter under that name.

Apparently, the academy continued on a steady path for the next few years. Nothing has been found to indicate otherwise except a newspaper notation about the coming and going of a superintendent, J.B. Blackington, in school year 1838-'39. He left after criticism for the "rigid discipline" (whatever that was) he maintained.

Durham reported that despite the efforts of other superintendents and the community, "the academy like hundreds of private schools of the period, fell upon hard times, and financial distress prompted trustees to abandon operation of the school in 1855 and to convey the land and building to the prosperous local Howard Lodge No. 13, I.O.O.F. in 1856."

Phoenix From the Ashes

Lodge members, some of whom were school trustees, wanted the county to keep a girls' school. Using the facilities it had purchased, the lodge decided to sponsor a new school, which they called Howard Female Institute. In February of 1856, the Legislature gave the newly named school a charter with the provision that its trustees be Howard Lodge members.

The lodge wasted no time getting the institute up and running. Its first (partial) session began in April 1856. A school catalog announced that Howard Lodge was extending school buildings to add accommodations for students. Meanwhile,

students could board in private homes near the school. It announced faculty and named the school governing body—a board of visitors.

By 1858, the school listed 131 undergraduates from the previous school year and 10 in its graduating class, all from Sumner County. The board of visitors contained familiar names of county leaders: Thomas Boyers, William Moore, Benjamin F. Allen, W.S. Munday, George Winchester, Thomas Trimble and President Joseph Smith Fowler. Lodge members were noted as honorary board members.

In 1861, students published their first student news and literary publication, *The Bud of Thought*, a weekly project by the senior class. Durham located the first issue and reported, "The prevailing view of *The Bud of Thought* was pro-union and anti-secession. A visit to the school by former Governor Foote of Mississippi during which he spoke in support of preserving the Union and against secession was endorsed and reported fully...While this enthusiastic Union sentiment coincided with the political convictions of the school's president, it also reflected a sentiment still strongly held in Sumner County at that time. It had been less than 30 years since Andrew Jackson had issued the dramatic challenge: 'Our federal union—it must be preserved.' And most Sumner Countians were loath to turn their backs on Old Hickory."

This is the first part of the story of Howard Female College, which continued to operate until the early 1920s.

Days of Old Sumner County Stories from January 2013-December 2016

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Sumner County Historical Society published its first *Days of Old Sumner County* quarterly newsletter beginning in January 2013. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as editor. This publication has provided approximately 150 stories by a dozen or more writers about historical events and people well-remembered from legends or facts of Sumner County's past. Below is a listing of the stories published, all of which are available to SCHS members at (www.sctnhs.org):

January 2013:

Page 1,10-Sumner Co. History: Its Importance. By State Historian Walter Durham.

Page 1,2-Sumner Cabin Now Part of Irish Park. Gallatin businessman historian John Garrott's visit to Hugh Rogan's historic cabin, formerly located in Sumner, now in Ireland's Ulster American Folk Park. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 3,10-Fairvue Plantation: Early Days of the Historic Home. Revolutionary War veteran James Franklin builds Fairvue. By Bill Puryear.

Page 4,9-Teddy Roosevelt: An Early Historian of Middle Tennessee. The former president visited Middle Tennessee as a young man and wrote about pioneers Daniel Boone and Kasper Mansker in Volume One of his renown history, *Winning of the West*, published in 1889. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 5-Sumner Co. Archives: Records Indexed to 1786. By Shirley Wilson.

Page 6-Confusion About Avery Trace Continuing. Avery Trace is unlikely to have been in the Cumberland region. By Jack Masters.

Page 7-Sumner Gives Tennessee a Remarkable Pioneer Governor. Early years of William Hall. By Jan Shuxteau

Page 8-Hillary W. Key: From Slavery to Prominence. Former slave of Fairvue became prominent educator, theologian. By Velma Brinkley.

Page 9-Looking for the History of the Sanders-Luna Farm. Research of family land. By Rebecca Lunsford.

April 2013:

Page 1,10-Morgan to Present at SCHS Dinner. Judith Morgan of Hendersonville pens *The Lost World of Langley Hall*. By Jan Shuxteau

Page 1, 10-Fairvue: Gone With the Wind. This is part II of Fairvue's history, the Isaac Franklin and Civil War years. By Bill Puryear.

Page 2,3-Walking Through Sumner County History. A hike down Hendersonville's Main Street notes historic places. By Tim Takacs.

Page 4-Gen. William Hall: Sumner's Hero in Later Years. Second part of the story about Hall, who briefly became governor after Gov. Sam Houston left Tennessee. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 5-What Became of Eliza's Historic Home? This is a history of the home of Eliza Allen Houston Douglass, who was briefly the wife of Gov. Sam Houston. By Ken Thomson.

Page 6,7-Cumberland Compact Signers-How Many? The original document is faded, difficult to read and some names may be there twice. By Jack Masters.

Page 8-A Mob Outmaneuvered: Gallatin 1920s. The sheriff outmaneuvered the mob gathered outside of Sumner Co. jail. By Walter Durham.

Page 9-The Great Hendersonville Fire Burned 70 Years Ago. On Nov. 17, 1942, half the town's commercial area burned. By Jamie Clary.

Page 11-Thomas Spencer: Sumner's Amazing Pioneer. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 12-Farmhouse of John G.Dunn.

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Page 1,11-Remembering Our Remarkable Friend, Walter. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 1,2-Donelson: SC Planter, Politician. By Ken Thomson.

Page 3,9-Today's Rock Castle: Changes Through Time. By Melinda Gaines.

Page 4,5-'A Beautiful Sequestered Hygeia of Nature.' Part 1 of the history of Epperson Springs Hotel, Westmoreland. By John Creasy.

Page 6,7-Tracing Descendants of Former Slave. Genealogy of the Hillary Key family. By Shirley Wilson.

Page 8,9-The Reed Years: Fairvue's Return to Glory. Adelia sold Fairvue to Charles Reed who raises race horses. By Bill Puryear.

Page 10,11-Cumberland Winds Throughout Sumner's History. The river shapes Sumner County. By Randy Tatum.

October 2013

Page 1, 12-Stories Told of Rosemont's Josephus Guild. By Jan Shuxteau from Walter Durham's book, *Joseph Conn Guild and Rose Mont, Politics and Plantation in 19th Century Tennessee*.

Page 1,12-Portland Founded on Buntin Land. By Al Dittes.

Page 2,3-Reed Brings Celebrity Era to His 'Fairview' Plantation. Charles Reed lavishes money, prestige on Fairvue in 1880s and 1890s. By Bill Puryear.

Page 4,5-Siblings Frank and Eliza Allen: The Rest of the Story. By Judith Morgan from *The Lost World of Langley Hall*.

Page 6,7-Do You Remember Crash Brown, The Human Bomb? The story of daredevil John Timothy Brown, born in Westmoreland. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 8-Just Where Is the 'Island' at Shackle Island?' By Jack Masters.

Page 9-1924: Two Trains Derailed in Portland Wreck. *Sumner County News*.

Page 10,11-'...A Beautiful Sequestered Hygeia of Nature' Part 2 of Epperson Springs Resort. By John Creasy.

January 2014

Page 1,11-Moffatt Tells Compelling Church History. History of Shiloh Church (1793) and 1st Presbyterian of Gallatin. By Dr. Charles Moffatt.

Page 1,12-Recall the Great Blizzard of '51. The 15-inch snowfall of Jan. 29-Feb 2, 1951 and -15-degree temps, resulting in pioneer-style survival. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 2-High School Ghost Dubbed 'Colonel Berry.' The ghost of Hendersonville High School. By Jamie Clary.

Page 3-Who was the Real Col. Harry Berry? He graduated West Point in 1904, ran Hazelpath (the 5,000-acre family farm), commanded the 115th Field Artillery during WWI, commanded the transport base at Camp Luna, N.M., in WWII. By Judith Morgan.

Page 4,5-Early Fountainhead and the Adventist

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Founders. Adventists settled in this part of Portland in 1907. By Al Dittes.

Page 6,7-Nickelson: Gallatin Entrepreneur, Adventurer. Part 1 of the story of Samuel Nickelson. By Ken Thomson.

Page 8,9-'Famous for Home-Cooked Meals and Moonshine.' A history of Tyree Springs Resort from 1820s to 1930s. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 10-'The Great Panic': Remembering Feb. 16, 1862. In *Nashville The Occupied City*, Walter Durham gives a gripping account of the panic in Nashville when the Union Army seized the city. By Jan Shuxteau.

April 2014

Page 1,11-Whatever Happened? The Story of Rock Castle's Polly Smith. By Melinda Gaines.

Page 1,12-1903: Gallatin Vote Ushers in Prohibition. Gallatin, population 4,000, joins other Tennessee towns voting in prohibition. By Tim Takacs.

Page 2,3-Salt Licks, Springs and Public Areas in Davidson, Sumner. In the 18th century North Carolina gave land grants instead of cash for military service but kept salt licks and springs in public areas. By Jack Masters.

Page 4-Historic James Gambling House Destroyed. Fire razed the Revolutionary War veteran's home on Jan. 19, 2014. By Ken Thomson.

Page 5-Tax Record Index 1787-1870 Created. Sumner Co. Archives has the records. By Randy Tatum.

Page 6,7-Elmer Hinton Put Portland on the Map. Hinton was renowned country wit. By Al Dittes.

Page 8-How Nickelson Souvenirs Ended Up Back Here. These are items in the Sumner County Museum. By Ken Thomson.

Page 9-Hugh Rogan: His Local Descendants. By Luke Corbitt.

Page 10-Nashville Falls in February 1862: Morgan Brings the Fight to Gallatin in March. By Jan Shuxteau.

July 2014

Page 1,2-Looking Back: The Centennial Fourth of July. By Judith Morgan.

Page 1,11-He Dared Escape WWI Prison. George W. Puryear, local airman, was the first prisoner of war to escape a German WWI prison camp. By Bill Puryear.

Page 3-Love of Pioneer History Inspired His Novels. Don Wright discusses books. By Don Wright.

Page 4,5-Bailey Spread Conservation Message in County. James L. Bailey, Portland, dedicated his life to preservation of natural resources. By Al Dittes.

Page 6,7-H'ville Finds Its First (Permanent) City Hall. Various locales precede a permanent Hendersonville city hall. By Jamie Clary.

Page 8,9-Nashville was Key Supply, Distribution Center. In his book, *Reluctant Partners-Nashville and the Union*, Walter Durham writes of Nashville's occupation July 1, 1863-June 30, 1865. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 10-Sarah Michie Smith: Rock Castle Matriarch. By Sara Beth Gideon.

October 2014

Page 1,8-From Farm Boy to Ice Cold Experimenter. Story of Dr. Samuel Collins, inventor. By Al Dittes.

Page 1,7-Remembering the Interurban. Story of the railroad from Gallatin to Nashville, 1913-1932. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 2,3-Opie Read: Writer and Chautaugua Speaker. Read authored more than 65 books and is considered

the last man of the nation's rough and tumble literary epoch. By Ken Thomson.

Page 4,5-Document: Runaway Slaves Sought. Reward document at Sumner County Archives. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 5-'49ers Gold Rush! Walter Durham writes of Sumner Countians going to the California gold rush in *Vounteer Forty-Niners*. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 6-Sumner's Boundary Line Disputed for Decades. By Jack Masters.

Page 10,11-Knox Doss: The Man Behind the Name. He was one of Sumner's best known educators, 1895-1991. By John Creasy.

January 2015

Page 1,10-1811-1812 Earthquakes Rattle Sumner. In his book, *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*, Dr. Charles Moffatt describes locals' reaction to the earthquakes from New Madrid fault. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 1,11- Hanging Tree Downed. An old Sycamore on Station Creek Road, where a slave was hung for murder in 1861, was chopped down. By Jan Shuxteau and Ken Thomson.

Page 2,3-Behind the Scenes: Why Beech High Was Built. By Jamie Clary.

Page 3-Balie Peyton: Politics, Horses. Walter Durham's book, *Balie Peyton of Tennessee* discusses the pro-Union Congressman. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4,5-Gwin Changed the Course of California's History. Sumner native, William Gwin, helped write California's constitution and was the first U.S. senator from California. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 6,7-Bellevue, Sunnyside, Duncruzin to Hunter's Run. Story of the home built by James Franklin II, originally called Bellevue. By Lt. Col. Sam Doyle.

Page 8,9-Early Life of Notable Attorney James Neal. Portland attorney prosecutes top aides of President Richard Nixon in the Watergate scandal. By Al Dittes.

Page 10-Avalanche: *Gone to the Front!* Book by John Aaron Wade of Texas gives facts about African Americans in the Confederate army.

April 2015

Page 1,11-Its Youth Helped H'ville Survive in '72. L.H. "Dink" Newman, who became the city's first mayor, drew narrow boundaries for Hendersonville in order to pass the city's incorporation in 1968. By Jamie Clary.

Page 1,8-Garrott House Pledged to Museum; Carriage House to be Museum Site. The home of former longtime SCHS president and businessman John Garrott and June Garrott is donated. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 2,3-Gallatin Turnpike Company Builds the Road. This is the story of Kentucky Road, predecessor of Gallatin Road/Nashville Pike, from Tim Takacs' book, *City by the Lake*. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4-Author Gives Vision of Old Nashville, Elmwood Mansion. The new book, *My Name Was Elmwood: A Story of Nashville* is described by its author, Judith Morgan. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 5-How Did Households Run in the Old South? By Ken Thomson.

Page 6,7-James Gwin: The First Fountain Head Pioneer. The story of Andrew Jackson's friend, James Gwin, Methodist clergyman, 1768-1841. By Al Dittes.

Page 10,11-The Great Flood of 1927 Led to Big Changes. Destruction led to The Corps of Engineers' construction of Tennessee's dam system and Cumberland River flood control. By Bonnie Martin.

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Page 1,11-Following Clues in a 19th Century 'Bastardy' Case. The story of Zilpha Stansbury in which a bond is required to pay the way of an illegitimate child. By Shirley Wilson.

Page 1-Painting Brings a Story to Life. "Nature's Refuge," by Gallatin artist David Wright depicts Longhunter Thomas Spencer camping in a hugh hollow tree.

Page 2,3-A 1914 Snapshot of Rural Fountain Head. Part 1 by Al Dittes.

Page 4-The Best Kept Secret: Sumner Co. Museum. By Juanita Frazor.

Page 5,9-A History of Gallatin Newspapers to 1858.

Page 6,7-No More Tolls, Gallatin Road Becomes Public Highway. Part 2 by Jan Shuxteau from Tim Takacs' *City by the Lake*.

Page 8,9-Eyewitness Account of the Battle of New Orleans. By Judith Morgan.

Page 10-Ola Roberson: First African-American Woman College Grad. By Eva Jane Johnson.

Page 11-Awards Presented at SCHS Meeting.

October 2015

Page 1,6-1813:James Winchester's Year as a POW. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 1,9-Country Doc Is Pioneer Motorist. By Ken Thomson and Jan Shuxteau.

Page 2,3-Grasslands: A Dream of Racing Glory. Part 1 by Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4,5-Tragedy in Sumner County: The Liberty Cyclone. 1925 storm killed 27. By Paula Shannon.

Page 7-Genetic Testing for Genealogical Use: It Worked for Me. By Randy Tatum.

Page 8-Renovation Underway on Portland's Temple Theater. By Al Dittes.

Page 10,11-1914 Diary: Callin' on Folks in Simpson's Gap. Second part of Rural Fountain Head. By Al Dittes.

January 2016

Page 1,8-Smithsonian Features Thomson About Ancestor. SCHS President Ken Thomson interviewed by Smithsonian magazine about his ancestor Isaac Franklin. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 2,11-Kerley Fire in Archives Collection. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 2,3-Grasslands Demise: Great Depression Victim. Part 2 of story of Grasslands. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4,5-Bishop McKendree: An Apostle on the American Frontier. William McKendree of Fountain Head was first American-born Methodist bishop. By Al Dittes.

Page 6,7-Williams: The Best of Sumner Turf Men. The story of Col. Green Berry Williams, 1778-1874. By Ken Thomson.

Page 10-Bradford-Berry House: Can It Be Saved? French Lick Chapter of the DAR hopes to save the 220-year-old historic Hendersonville house. By Jan Shuxteau.

April 2016

Page 1,10-SCHS to Present WW I Memorabilia.

Page 1,11-Hawthorn Hill: Researched, Restored. New facts uncovered and house restored in 2015 to open in May 2016. By Jan Shuxteau

Page 2,3-Henry Bradford's Legacy: Bradford-Berry House. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4,5-Wynnewood: Not a Stagecoach Inn Afterall! New research sets the Wynnewood story straight. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 6,7-Looking Back to Storm of 1890. Story comes from *The Lost World of Langley Hall* by Judith Morgan.

Page 8,9-Hendersonville: City Government Starts in 1969. By Jamie Clary.

Page 9-DuPont Connected to Local Steeplechase and Grasslands Club. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 10-1866 Lawsuit Shows a Need for Coffins. By Shirley Wilson.

July 2016

Page 1,5-Life Stories to be Told at Cemetery 19th Annual Tour. By Ken Thomson.

Page 1,11-Portland Strawberries in the White House. In the heyday of Portland's strawberry industry, berries were shipped everywhere, including the White House. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 2,3-How the City of Portland Was Born. By Al Dittes.

Page 4,5-Portland's Fascinating Physician: Dr. Thomas Lanier. By Paula Shannon.

Page 6,7-Cecilia Bradford Carroll: Wife of Governor, Mother of Mayor. She was raised and married in the Bradford-Berry House. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 8,9-Beyond Elmore and Emma: Other Owners of the Douglass-Clark House. On Station Camp Road, the 230-year-old house opened to the public in July 2015. It was once a court house and a residence. By Taryn Hill.

Page 10-Wirt Seminary: Sumner's First College. By Jan Shuxteau.

October 2016

Page 1-Franklin Cemetery Now Restored. Jethro Sumner DAR held a remarking ceremony at James Franklin cemetery on Station Camp Creek. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 1,11-Telephones Come Here in 1883. Just seven years after Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his invention in public, Sumner got its first phones. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 2,3-New Book Highlights WW I Memories. Judith Morgan's new book, *Sumner County in the Great War: Let Us Remember*, gives stories of Sumner men who fought. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 4,5-Portland: Infrastructure Gives Rise to Industry. After the strawberry industry winds down in 1951, the city lays the foundations to attract industry. Part 1. By Al Dittes.

Page 5-Jack Masters' Land Grant Book Is For Sale Now. This edition places North Carolina and Tennessee land grants on the Elk River in the counties of Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Lincoln, Marshall and Moore.

Page 6,7-Brinkley Book Opens Her Family's Past and Present. Velma Brinkley talks about her search for family. By Jan Shuxteau.

Page 8, 9-Finding Historical Connections: 'Six Degrees of Separation.' Court documents found at the county archives show unexpected connections among historical figures. By Bonnie Martin.

Page 10-The Mysterious Case of Solomon Mitchell. This story shows the migration of Portland's prominent Mitchell and Moore families to Sumner County. By Shirley Wilson.

Sumner County Historical Society

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