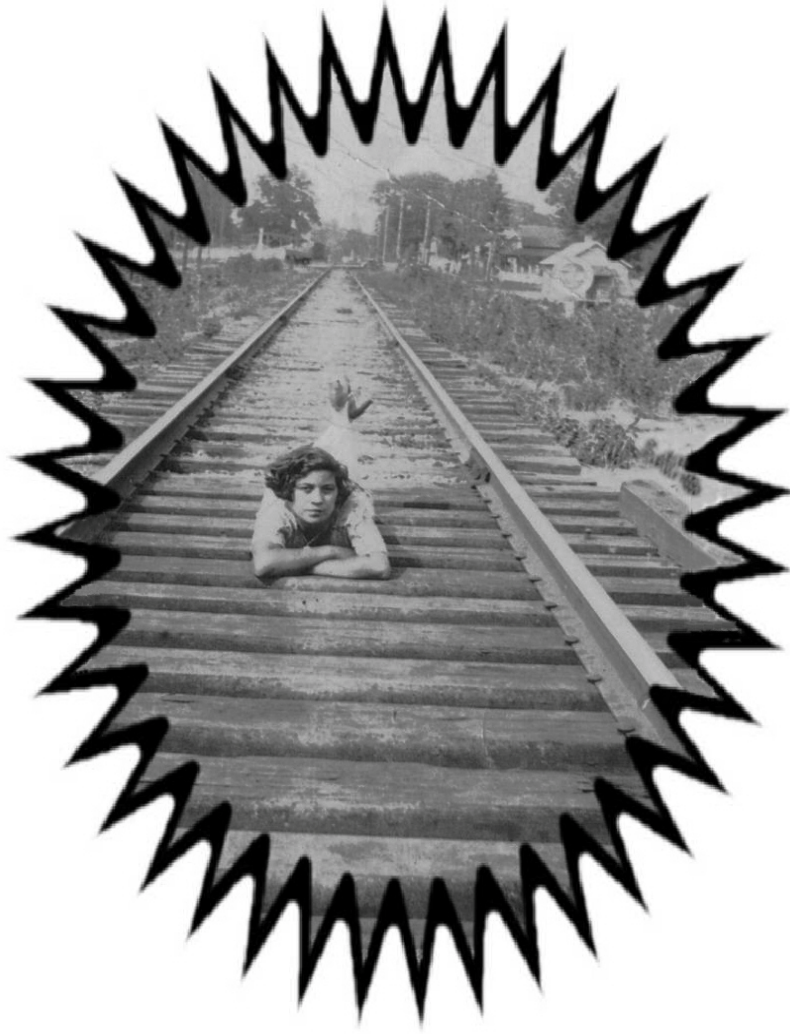


LOOKING BACK, III  
IN MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE



LOIS ROWLAND LOOKING SOUTH ABOUT 1928  
IN BETHEL SPRINGS, MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

COMPILED BY NANCY WARDLOW KENNEDY  
MAY 1, 2005

# LOOKING BACK, III IN MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE



## PIONEER PROFILES

My ggggg-grandfather Thompson was the first person killed by the Regulators in Orange County, NC during the Revolutionary War and I have never even thought about him during the July 4 festivities. From now on, I plan to. I will pay homage to him and other grandfathers, uncles and thousands of others that gave their lives that I, and my family, down to the tenth generation, can live in freedom. Worship in freedom, choose my job, free to go anywhere in the USA , free to be me.

56 men signed the Declaration of Independence knowing what the penalty would be they lost the cause. With their signature they pledged their lives, fortunes, honor and sometimes family. They pledged, “for the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”

Of those 56 men, nine fought and died. Five were captured, tortured and killed. Carter Braxton, lost all his ships to the British Navy and had to sell his home and land to pay his debts, he died a pauper. The home of Francis Lewis was destroyed and his wife was jailed where she died within a few months.

John Hart lived for a year in the woods and caves after he was forced to leave his dying wife. When he returned he wife was dead and his 13 children had vanished. He died exhausted. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Soldiers looted the homes of at least seven of the men and Thomas Nelson, Jr’s home was destroyed and he died bankrupt. Thomas McKeam was forced to move his family constantly, keeping them in hiding. He served in Congress without pay. All his possession were taken and he lived in poverty.

These men were not rough necks, looking for trouble. They were educated men of means. They had material security but they valued liberty more.

They were lawyers, merchants, farmers. They, and their thousands of supporters, risk it all for one word: Freedom. For over two centuries that freedom is still ours. Freedom we take for granted. This holiday, stop and reflect on that freedom and thank your God for those that sacrificed, sometimes the ultimate sacrifice, that America would be free. (Nancy Kennedy July 2002)

## COMPILED BY NANCY WARDLOW KENNEDY

INFORMATION FOR **LOOKING BACK** IS OBTAINED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND NOT ALWAYS VERIFIED. I CLAIM NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ERRORS, EXCEPT TYPO'S..

March 1, 2015: When I was diagnosed with a meningioma in December, I decided to put all my work on the McNairy County website, in hopes it would help someone else. Some of my work, such as this one, has not been proofed, so please overlook any errors. It is not indexed. Rather, it was indexed, but different programs and printers changed the page layout and the original index is not correct. Since time was my biggest obstacle, I did not go back and index. Please use your 'Find' key to search this document. Some of my work will overlap and be included in more than one document, but I thought it better to share than to be precise. My work as been important to me and important for it to be preserved. I love McNairy County History and I love those who love it with me.

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**N**early Forty Years Ago  
Jan 8, 1932  
McNairy County Independent

We have been handed a worn copy of the McNairy County Record published on November 11, 1892. It is Volume 2 Number 36 and Successor to the Pepper Box. It's editor and publisher was F. Stumph. It has many interesting items of news in it. Among them we find the following:

**County Directory**

County Court Clerk - J R Adams  
Circuit Court clerk - J C McConnell  
Clerk and Master of Chancery Court - D A McDougal  
Register - J M Hamm, Jr  
Trustee - T M Darnell  
Tax Assessor - W H Stone  
County Supt of Public Schools - M R Abernathy  
County Surveyor - R F Beard

Chancery Court convenes the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays in April and October. A G Hawkins of Huntingdon, Chancellor.

Circuit Court convenes the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in February, June and October. L S Woods of Lexington, Judge and T C Muse of Jackson, Attorney General.

County Court - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in each month and Quarterly terms 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in January, April, July and October, H C Gooch, chairman.

**Election Returns:** The returns from the November (1892) election shows the vote to be:

President - Cleveland 1132, Harrison 1143.

Governor - Turney 1107, Winstead 1153, Buchanan 472.

Congress - Enloe 1142, Thrasher 1544

State Senate - Coates 1131, Rush 1588

Representative - Jopling 1151, Butler 1552.

**Governor Peter Turney!**

As will be seen by the returns of McNairy county, the Populite-Republican fusion was successful and Dr G B Butler, a life long Republican was elected to represent this county in the next Legislature by the votes of the Third Party. But it was not all over the State that way. Hon. Peter Turney has overcome the combined efforts of Winstead and Buchanan and poor Buch is a lagging in the race. Both branches of the legislature are safely Democratic, thus insuring the States Senate and Johnny McDowell must stay at home. We feel justly proud that Tennessee, the State of Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett, is still Democratic.

**Local Mentions:**

Messrs. Crocker & Co have turned out their first mattress and show superior workmanship. We hope that Messrs Crocker & Co will become permanently established in their enterprise, thus adding to the material prosperity of Selmer.

The following marriages licenses were issued during the week: A E Goss to Nannie E Cooksey; Jeff Richard to Martha Floyd; J A Browning to Jennie Phillips; Grant Sinclair to Jennie Erwin; Terry McCullar to Inas Smallwood; Charles Shadle to N E Howell.

Messrs Tom Emmons and Charles Strickland, of Corinth, have entered Selmer College (really just a high school - and it was situated where the Selmer Civic Center is today, 2005, and that area was called College Hill - N Kennedy.) Our school is growing rapidly under the direction of Prof Hamm, who is a high-toned honorable gentleman of scholarly attainments.

Purdy Institute seems to be growing in numbers and interest (also a high school.) Several new students have been enrolled and everyone is moving on nicely. An entertainment will be given at the Institute in two weeks.

The Board of Aldermen (Selmer) met in special meeting last Monday night and adopted an ordinance prohibiting the sale of liquor from sunrise of election day to sunrise next day, which was strictly enforced by Marshal Crocker. The Aldermen present were H C Gooch, H C Taylor, D A McDougall, T M Bell and J W Purviance.

Clark Kendal, a negro living near Purdy was severely wounded near Adamsville Saturday night. It seems that he was walking from town to an acquaintance's house when he was suddenly fired upon by some unknown person, wounding him severely

Lost - A dapple bay horse, 11 year old, star on forehead, right hind foot white and shod in front, on Monday night and belonging to G T Meeks of Guys Station. Finder will be liberally rewarded.

I am now prepared to sell you Dry Goods, Groceries, etc, at close figures and take any kind of country produce in exchange. - H C Gooch.

Mr E H Stubblefield of Falcon was in town Saturday. Mrs. T B Hooker, of Guys, spent Sunday in Selmer. Mr. Wm Rush of Chester County, was here the latter part of last week. Hon H C Gooch spent Friday in Jackson.

2000 bales cotton wanted for spinners order in Selmer, Tenn. - H C Gooch & Co.

Drop in the postoffice at Adamsville and see the best lot of jewelry and musical merchandise in the country.

Mr Gates came down Wednesday morning from Jackson, all wreathed in smiles over the glorious Democratic victory in the nation and his county.

Mr. Charles Lipford of Purdy, followed the yearnings of his heart and took a trip to Selmer last Monday. Prof Abernathy and Mr W M Phillips of the same place were also here.

Messrs Braden and Taylor spend a day in Purdy last week. Dr G H Butler was in Selmer Tuesday night and Wednesday. A T Whitelaw, Esq of Jackson, was here today with a view of settling here. Mr C J Hendrix of Bethel Springs was here the latter part of last week. Mrs R M Cain and daughters of Hurst, visited friends and relatives in Selmer this week. She will probably send one of her daughters to Selmer college. Mr. R E McKinney of Henderson was here on a visit.

**COUNTY COURT**.....November term 1892: Honorable H C Gooch, presiding; J R Adams, clerk. Rev. J H Curry appointed administrator of the estate of James W Pace, deceased. Bond \$500. Mr. H L Dickey appointed guardian for Thomas C Dickey, Mary E Dickey and James M Dickey. Bond \$600. Mrs. Julia A Mathews appointed administrator of the estate of William B Harland, deceased. Bond \$150.

**GRAVEL HILL DOTS....** Editor Record - the infant child of Dock Jones died on the night of November 8. Prof A Y Yancey is now teaching at Mt Vernon, three miles from here. A R Huggins, who is attending school at Jackson came home to vote and join hands with his many friends.

**PROGRAM - Of the McNairy County Medical Society**, which convenes at Selmer on the second Monday and Tuesday in December 1892:

- Dr J C McConnell - Dysentery
- Dr W E Atkins - duty of physician and people bearing on their mutual relationship.
- Dr G W Morris - Nephritis
- Dr May Sanders - Medical Jurisprudence
- Dr Jas L Sanders - Typhoid fever
- Dr J W Flatt - Gastritis
- Dr J W Martin - life of a country doctor
- Dr H L Robinson - Medical legislation
- Dr R N Barnhill -
- Dr J M Stanford - Uterine Carsinonea
- Dr J B Hudson - Remittent fever
- Dr W Stovall - Experiences in Obstetrics
- Dr G H Butler - Hemateuria
- Dr Howell - Gastric Ulcer
- Dr R W Haney - Rheumatism
- Dr E McAfee - Dysmenorrhea
- Dr J M King - Scrofula
- Dr Asa Bell - Post parten hemmorrhage
- Dr W E Dickson - Gout
- Dr Cobb - Pleuritis
- Dr Jas F Darnell - Pneumonia
- Dr J C McConnell, Dr W E Atkins, Dr James F Darnell, committee on program

**ENTERTAINMENT** - The Selmer Institute Society was organized last Friday night at the college building. The exercises consisted of recitations, declamations, lectures, music and date on: "Resolved, that Columbus deserves more credit for discovering American than George Washington for defending it."

**THE PRESENT DUTY - between the great things we cannot do, and the small things we will not do, there is great danger that we shall do nothing.**

**End of January 1892** =====

## MCNAIRY COUNTY INDEPENDENT - JANUARY 8, 1932 ABSTRACTS

**QUARTERLY COURT PROCEEDINGS** - The regular term of the Quarterly Court was held on Monday. All the Justices of the Peace were present except W B Hooker of Guys. Chairman W R Nickles presided and Sheriff J B Graham and Clerk J R Swaim were in their places. One of the largest crowds ever to attend a session of the court was there to witness what was expected to be an unusually lively session.

The attraction was the election of a Court chairman. W R Nickles, incumbent was opposed by J P Sipes. Nickles was re-elected by a vote of 24 to 15.

H P Woods and Neil Brooks gave a report of a 1932 tax levy. This part was tabled until April.

That which brought on the greater part of the discussion was the lowering of the rate for schools. No action taken. Justice Churchwell sought to reduce Supt W R Estes' salary for \$1,000 to \$750. That was tabled by a motion of Justice Steadman.

The court adjourned about 4pm and each member was given a copy of the new code. Several justices were without dockets and Justice English stated that he was using the old docket that belonged to the late A K Abernathy, who was justice of the peace in the 15<sup>th</sup> district forty years and more ago.

Other Quarterly Court Notes: Notaries were named: R L Wilmeth, Earl Hester, J F Rose and Troy Hair.

J F Dillon made a motion for keeping the inmates of the poor house fixed at \$10, per month, reducing it from \$12.

The motion to allow Oscar Whitten \$10 a month was tabled. Mr Whitten is paralyzed, caused from an injury digging a well and a large, heavily loaded bucket stuck him on the head. He was employed by the county at the time.

The following were released from payment of poll tax and road duty: Paul Derryberry, Cube Martin, Ira Tidwell, Henry Wilson, O S Holder, Watt Mathias, A H Clayton, Harrison Treece, W H Robinson, Hugh L Clayton, J H Leath, Parker Ellis, Bill Barnes, Earl Johnson, Scott Williams, Oliver Gaddy, Elmer Smith, J V Henry, Leland Wilson, Willy McMahan, Blaine Russom, Columbus Luttrell, Virgil Armstrong, DeVoral King, H H Brown, Eber Plunk, J S Partinberry, Ed Wilbanks, Havoran Cheshier, Dee Martin, Hubert Ellis, Ed Gilchrist, Horace Tidwell, Ben Floyd, Jim Floyd.

The salary of the chairman was fixed at \$600 and bond at \$1,000.

H S Browder was elected chairman protem. Dr J R Smith was elected County Health Officer. Dr R M Kendrick was elected as Poor House practitioner.

**JURY LIST** for Circuit Court, convenes on the third Monday, listed by district:

- |    |               |                |
|----|---------------|----------------|
| 1. | Ed Bodiford   | Dee Taylor     |
| 2. | Neely Boatman | J N Sanders    |
| 3. | Arlis Garner  | E B Kernodle   |
| 4. | W A Jones     | W P McMahan    |
| 5. | R E Henry     | Elbert Bolding |
| 6. | W R Hockaday  | A H Jopling    |
| 7. | John W Moore  | E E Reed       |

- |     |                |               |
|-----|----------------|---------------|
| 8.  | L F Ingle      | Hubert Smith  |
| 9.  | John W Rickman | P A Hopkins   |
| 10. | R A Poindexter | W A Tedford   |
| 11. | A M Amerson    | Grady Droke   |
| 12. | D A McCombs    | L H Robertson |
| 13. | J L Brooks     | J L Hockaday  |
| 14. | W R Everett    | J W Williams  |
| 15. | C T Gray       | Ira Dallas    |
| 16. | W C Wilson     | W C Tacker    |
| 17. | Taft Walker    | Frank Putman  |
| 18. | Dolph Nixon    | Noel Milstead |
| 19. | W W Hester     | John Miller   |

**STANTONVILLE NEWS** - Those mentioned: J W Fullbright and wife and R D Combs visited relatives in Alabama. Vera Hoover, a teacher in Memphis, and Mrs L Z Hurley & family of Oakland. spent holiday with their parents M/M J O Hoover. W N Jones & children, W M Bond & wife of Jackson visited W R Phillips. H M Wolverton of Muskogee, Okla visited his mother, Mrs Sallie Wolverton. Several from Stantonville went to Shiloh Friday to attend the burial of Dr John Abernathy. Mrs Lenora Davis is improving and G W Kendrick is about the same.

**VISIT FROM J H FERGUSON**, of the old Sulphur Springs neighborhood, age 89 was in Selmer. He is one of the few soldiers living in McNairy County who saw service in the Civil War, Company G Sixth Tennessee Federal Cavalry, known as Hurst Regiment.

**HURLEY COMMUNITY** (Near Chewalla) Mrs L H Morrow visited her daughter, Mrs Celia Carter in Chewalla. Arlie Stanfield and wife and L L McCullar had a car wreck Sunday morning. They were going around a mudhole in the road and ran against a stump. Mrs Stanfield was hurt, not seriously. Mrs Ann McNairy of Parken, Arkansas visited her sister Miss Mary Morrow. Jimmy Everette, son of Esq Walter Everette hurt his leg real bad. Mrs Lizzie Springer of Corinth visited Mrs. Claudia Derryberry. Sunday School is every Sunday afternoon. Others mentioned are H B Shannon, Ed Cardwell, Arlie and Aubra Standfield, M/M Arthur King, Clyde Marrow, Key Marrow, W D Morrow, W W Morse, J C Morrow, Fred Fulton.

**BETHEL SPRINGS.** On New Year's Eve the ladies of the M E Church and the Presbyterian church gave a banquet in the building recently vacated by the City Café. 75 to 100 attended. Rev T S Daniels was toastmaster. Short talks were made by Mr Bruce Mitchell and Mr J L Hendrix of Jackson, Wendall Deaton of Memphis, Dr E M Smith, Prof Barrix, Dr J E Gault, A M Sanders, Sergeant-Major John Williams of California. M/M John Williams after a months visit went home to California. Others mentioned: M/M A Williams; M/M Troy Williams; Mayor H B Lewis; Will Cobb & family of Dyersburg; M/M Sam Cheshier & son of Memphis; M/M J W Cheshier; Eason Hendrix, Miss Lessie Fae Mitchell and Sarah Elizabeth home from Martin where they attend school; M/M B B Dennie; Mrs Joe Ozement & baby; M/M Scott Finley; Rev & Mrs. W H Jordan; Mrs Ora Jordan and Mrs H G Tull; B O Weeks of Saulsbury.



**NEW SALEM:** Those mentioned: M/M Allen Williams & baby of Henderson, Sarah Elizabeth Basham student at Martin, M/M R P Phillips of Selmer, Herman Robins, M/M Maynard Murry, Percy Moore, Clay John, R B Cheshier, Mrs Scott Robinson, Mrs Laura Cobb, Mrs Allie Murry, Mrs Gilbert Moore, Mrs John Tacker. Mrs Jove Cheshier, Mrs Jim Woods, Mrs Ovie Young. Parties over the holidays were given by Misses Elsie Tacker, Mildred & Sarah Elizabeth Basham and Mrs Willie Woods. Mrs Laura Cook, Mrs Mansel Russom, Mrs Newburn Ray, M/M Arlie kernodle, Herman Robinson, M/M R P Phillips of Selmer. M/M R F Lewis, Miss Eunice Robinson, Miss Eunice May Murray, Sylvia Robinson, M/M Jim Woods, Mrs Logan Henry of Rose Hill.

**FINGER:** Finger basketball teams won over Stantonville on Saturday night Girls won 29 to 12 and boys 9 to 8. Bro DeBerry preached the Sunday services at the Baptist church. Those mentioned, visiting, etc: Miss Inez Walker, Miss Pearl Massey, Miss Pearl and Lula Young, Mrs W S Young, Miss Dolly Dixon, M/M W P Massey, Miss Ophelia Dickey and Elizabeth Stovall, M/M G F Dickey, M/M H H Brown, Loraine & Christine, Jack Dickey, Buford Young, M/M Robert Beene, M/M Ray Gaddy, M/M Sammie Beene, Neil Morris, W A Martin, M/M Joe Harris of Bethel Springs; Mrs Lee Roy Gardner, Misses Evelyn Martin, Ruby Clayton and Mattie Lou Ward. Elmer Russell, M J C Deese.

**LIBERTY** Those mentioned: M/M Paul Johnson and Emmer Jane, M/M G W Plunk, Mrs W B Plunk & Opal & Jewell, M/M Jim Lofton, Mrs Ida Smith, M/M Preston Ingle, M/M G W Wilkes, M/M E E Wilkes, M/M Eulis Plunk, Miss Jewel Plunk, Frank & Ruth Smith, Opal Plunk, Mrs Thelma Plunk, R B and J C Lofton, Arthur Shirley, Guy Plunk, Frank & Harris Smith.

**LAWTON.** Those mentioned: Misses Verlin and Gertrude Wyatt, Mrs W W Horton, Mrs Thomas Louder & children of Crump, Mrs Mattie Cole, Miss Ella Gillis, Mrs Dora Cox of Stantonville, M/M John Milford; Joe Walker, J C Hawkins, M/M B J Hawkins, Lillian Wolfe of Tyronza, Ark, M/M J P Sipes, Jr, Hobert Sipes from Jackson; Dr H C Sanders, Rosco Steele, Irby Dancer and Bishop Humpheries from school in Nashville, Mrs John Alexander, Eddie Humphries. They had a singing at Lawton on Saturday night.

**FRIENDSHIP** (part is gone) Bob Dillon & families new residents of community. E D Matlock, Claude Matlock, Jodie Horton, Marshall Dunaway, Dee and Clyde Sweat, Marshall Hicks, Radie Coleman, Smith Kinchen, Felix King, Robert & Dess Matlock, Buford & Johnnie Moore, Dee Bell, Velmer & Aline Matlock, Jewel & Bonnie Beckie Sweat, Vallie & Loren Matlock. A group of young people went kodaking Sunday.

**THIRD DISTRICT:** Sick list, Mrs Dee Moore and Mrs Erwin Muse, M/M John Kernodle, Miss Rittie Laughlin. Mrs Ethel Carothers of Selmer, Loyd Kerby and Buford Worsham, Miss Loreda Kernodle, Mrs. Gladys Kerby, Miss Mary Kernodle, Misses Annis, Frankie and Jimmie Dean, Mrs George Worsham, Mrs Newburn Ray and little son of Memphis, M/M George Worsham & Georgia and Merlin, M/M Bate Kernodle. Mrs John Kernodle, Mrs Lois Jernigan. John Hendrix, M/M George Basham.

**GRAVEL HILL:** Esq H S Browder and Esq J B Huggins. M/M Roy Huggins went to church at New Hope Sunday and visited in the home of W O South. Woodrow McCormack and Miss Christine Tate of the New Hope community went to Corinth Saturday night and surprised everybody by getting married.

**ADAMSVILLE:** Those sick, Mrs Minnie Williams, Mrs F M Sanders, Frank Shelton Jr, Mrs J H Curry. Others mentioned Mrs Tom Carter, John Shelton, attorney from Memphis, Aubert Little of Sardis, Mrs Robert Smith, Mary Lee and Martha Loiuise, M/M Roscoe Brown of Lexington, Grover Gilchrist, Misses Frances Brumley and Mary Ruth Wyatt, Miss Mamie Tidwell left for Memphis for nurses training, Miss Icy Walker, M/M J H Brown of Jackson, McKinley Wilkins and family recently moved into the Wolverton house and Jesse Phillips and family occupy the place vacated by Wilkins. Mrs Georgia Malone of Selmer, Miss Thelma Wyatt of Selmer, Kenneth Ross left Friday for Dallas, Texas where he has accepted a job, R C & Clifford Stanley went by bus to Memphis Friday. Miss Elizabeth Houston entertained members of her music class in the home of M/M E S Crowe. Miss Opal Ross entertained with a leap year party Saturday night, at her home on East Main street. Each girl had quite a thrill in drawing the name of the boy she was expected to "ask for the pleasure of his company." In most cases their dates were accepted and all had a splendid time.

**RURAL HILL** (which is now part of north Selmer) Several large hogs were killed last week and we are hoping for some cold weather. Mentioned: Mrs Sam Manley has been in Memphis with her children, M/M Earsie Sweatt, M/M Jobe Leonard, M/M J H Richard, Mrs W C Braudway, Miss Mamie Lou Lewis, Howard Wilson returned to his school at Stantonville, Misses Lenis and Clarice Braudway, Mrs Bulah Wilson. Mrs B F Darby, Mrs W C Wilson, Mrs Martha Richard, Miss Lizzie Richard.

**PLEASANT GROVE.** Pleasant Grove school is progressing nicely under the management of Miss Lois Prather. Sick: Mrs Coe Willis and little Charles Arnold Gilbert son of M/Mr Frazier Gilbert. Mentioned: Misses Hary Emma Gilbert and Lula Mae Bowers, Mrs Jimmie Prather. Robert & Rufus Jones, Warren and Norman Jones, Mrs Jessie Teague, Mrs Burton Jones, Milton Mathis & Nolen Simms of Gravel Hill, M/M Claude Springer and Murline, Miss Mary E Gilbert, M/M Captain Jones, Mrs Newton Hamm and Maruice Frank, and little Doris Barnes, M/M Wilford Jones, Mrs Lee Jones and Chloe Maxine, M/M Buford Barnes.

**THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.** Several attended Sunday school at Mt Zion Sunday (this is the one that was located on what is now Hwy 142) J W Hall, Mrs G D Willis, M/M J L Henson of Stantonville, M/M J E Henson, Walford Browder from Pebble Hill, Oren Browder, G D Willis, Charley Blakely, Mrs Pauline Rhodes, O V Erwin, Miss Mary Ray of Corinth. Several attended the quilting given by Miss Clevis Willis lat Monday.

**NEEDMORE:** School is progressing nicely under the management of Mr Raven Phillips. Those mentioned: Mts Eura Robbins, Ernestine & Dorothy, M/M O C Hopkins, Omer Hopkins and daughter Opal went to the dance Tuesday night at Frank Watsons. Kermit Glidewell, M/M Alvin Glidewell, Miss minnie Bell Hopkins and brother Earl, Mrs Ella Smith, Mrs John Presley,

Odus Emmons, Lonnie Smith, Beatrice Smith, Rubye Emmons. Tom Harris and wife and Traverse & Beatrice Smith and Opal Hopkins attending preaching at Pebble Hill Saturday night.

**PLEASANT SITE:** J V Jones, Orville Gardner, Mrs Hester Hopkins, Mrs Ella Hopkins, M/M H R Hardin of Leapwood, M/M J M Finley. Geo Burks and family have moved to Tyronza, Arkansas. M/M John Adey have moved to the Pleasant Grove community. Mrs E E Weatherford, Mrs Lena Jones, Lafayette Jones, Mrs Mattie Hopkins has been sick. Miss Audra Hopkins, Ora Mae Gardner, Hutson Dawson.

**HICKORY POSTOFFICE:** (My note: I think this was in the second district, almost at the Hardeman County line, near McCalips Chapel.) Mentioned: Albert Flatt, Edd Moore, Clifford Moore, M/M Marvin Russom, M/M S O Flatt, Misses Ettie & Dorothea Flatt, Miss Erby Smith. Miss Bertha Sanders, Marvin Russom, Albert Tubbs, Lawrence Russom, M/M W M Smith, M/M Wade Wooten, M/M Bruce Wooten, Miss Jewell Willis visited her sister Miss Ruby Willis in Pocahontas. A G King of Arkansas, R L Smith, Nolen & Buford Washan, Misses Jewell Willis and Dorothea Sanders, Marie Moore, M/M Carl Smith, M/M Effie King, M/M W M Smith, M/M Perry Smith, Buford Russom.

#### **BANK REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

**Home Banking Company** located at Finger, Tennessee. R L. Rankin, Cashier, Mrs Zaida Harris, Notary Public. Directors: J R Harris, W P Massey, U T Harris. (My note: Home Banking is the oldest bank in McNairy County. It is still located in Finger and a branch in Selmer under the name Home Banking Company. All of the other banks closed, merged or were bought out by bigger banks.)

**Union Savings Bank** located at Finger, Tennessee. L A Weaver, Cashier, Maud Mitchell, Notary Public. Directors: J F Mitchell, M F Walker, J O Massey.

**First National Bank of Selmer.** P L Basinger, Cashier, D G Robinson, Notary Public. Directors: U S Alexander, W L Weatherly, B L Browder

**Tri County Bank** located at Milledgeville, L L Harwell, cashier, J O Lott, Notary Public. Directors: L H Johnson, E A Churchwell, J P Vandyke

**Selmer Bank & Trust:** located in Selmer, Tennessee. M E Smith, cashier, Louis Adams, Notary Public. Directors, R M Kendrick, J R Smith, A S Robinson. (My note: Mr Smith was still the director when I started doing business there about 1965.)

**Bethel Springs Bank,** Located in Bethel Springs. Cashier John S Motley, H B Lewis Notary Public. Directors: E M Smith, W D Hendrix, A Williams

**SHRINERS:** Dan B Gooch, R B Gooch, A E Davis, DeWitt Hamilton, M E Smith, Dr John R Smith, Troy Smith, S W Gooch and W R Estes of Selmer and Dr Ernest Smith and Honorable Harrison G Tull of Bethel Springs will attend the annual banquet in Jackson.

**COLISEUM in Corinth,** showing next week: Douglas Fairbanks in **Around the World in 80 Minutes;** James Cagney and John Blondell in **Blonde Crazy;** Irene Dunn, Myra Loy, John

Halliday and Matt Moore in **Consolation Marriage**, Cartoon and News; James Dunn and Salley Eilers in **Dance Team**; John Gilbert, Madge Evans, El Brendel, Lois Moran in **West of Broadway**; Elizabeth Patterson, Lew Ayers and Anita Louise in **Heaven on Earth and Battling with Buffalo Bill and Ireland Melody Isle**

**CHESTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL** in Henderson, Tenn, now showing the best Talking Pictures. Next weeks (two shows per night): Will Rogers in **Ambassador Bill**, Bobo Steele in **Nevada Huckaroo**, Constance Bennett in **Bought**, Beery-Cooper in **The Champ** (the greatest picture of the year ) The next week: The Best of Broadway, **Private Lives, Over the Hill, Ben Hur, Way Back Home**. Admission 10 cents and 25 cents

### End of January 8, 1932 - McNairy County Independent Abstracts

#### **BEING COUNTRY AIN'T ALL THAT BAD**

**By Nancy Wardlow Kennedy**

Most folks don't realize just how "country" we are in McNairy County. It's hard to define McNairy Countains. We're too far north to be "red necks" and too far east to be "hill billies." I always thought Red Necks lived in Mississippi and Hill Billies lived in the mountains and hills of Tennessee. McNairy County don't have hills to speak of, so I just don't know what one would call us.

I guess we're just plain ole country folks. I was born straight down Hwy 45 south at a wide place in the road called Midway. When the highway was built in the early 1920's it was midway between Selmer and Corinth. By the time I was born it was a Polk and Plum Town - polk your head out the window and you've plumb dune missed it. Today Midway is a suburb of Eastview.

When I was growing up in Midway, we knew all the neighbors down the road, all the neighbors up the road and those across the woods. If you're hens were a-laying, the eggs were shared. If the cow went dry usually the neighbors would share with you. It was a terrible day when the old cow got into the green onions.

We didn't have TV until the fifties so neighbors visited more, gossiped more and knew all about everybody's business and nearly everybody in the neighborhood went to church. Most of the folks in our neck of the woods went to Gravel Hill or Mt Vernon and come revival time everybody went both places.

Revival time was July or August, which I never could understand, because this was canning time for the women. Church services were held in the morning and at night. It wasn't unusual for a revival to go on for three weeks if souls were being saved. The women took turns feeding the preacher and the visiting minister for dinner and supper. I'd bet those preachers gained ten pounds - at least - during revival time.

And yes, most of us born and bred McNairy Countains, still say dinner and supper. I didn't know what lunch was until I started to high school and had Mrs. MacReynolds for Home Economics.

Today I don't even know my neighbors across the street or most of the ones up the road. I usually see my friends at Walmart.

We have our own conception of talk, a southern drawl. Anywhere we go, they know we are from the country. Educated people will say ain't ain't a word, but it is in McNairy County. I was grown before I knew yesterdeven wasn't a word. Have you ever watched a movie where the actors are supposed to have a country accent but they just can't get it? We don't even say "You all come back" we say "younse come back." Or "hits a mighty fine morning." I feel sorry for the English teachers in our school system.

We may be county but along with the farmers and factory workers, we produced a lot of smart talented people: doctors, lawyers, preachers, missionaries, scientists, musicians, a governor and Buford Pusser.

So being country ain't bad atal.

**THESE NEXT NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ( from McNairy County Independent) WERE TAKEN FROM THE WORKS OF BARBARA GUEST.**

**JANUARY 4, 1924**

**TRAGIC DEATH**

**TRAGIC DEATH:** Sambo Wardlow, of son Mit Wardlow, and who was reared in the North end of the 9th district, near McLeods, met a most tragic death, when on Dec. 27th, 1923 he was threw from a mule and sustained injuries from which he died soon there after in a Memphis hospital. The injury occurred in Arkansas, a short distance from Memphis. An approaching automobile frightened the animal, and it fell on young Wardlow being crushed by the fall. He was a most likeable young fellow, and leaves his father and mother, and many other relatives to mourn his untimely death. He was buried in the old family burying grounds.

**RAMER:** Mrs. L. A. Smith, of Wenasoga, was visiting her brothers, H & H. N. Hill Saturday and Sunday. Mrs. F. M. Crocker had as her guest the first part of the week her sister, Mrs. Stanfield, and little daughter and brother, Clyde Morrow, and wife of Chewalla. Dr. and Mrs. Baird, of Henderson, were guest of Mrs. Baird's grandmother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wardlow, one day last week. Mrs. J. M. Reeder and children visited her parents, M/M. J. V. Leatherwood, at Wenasoga last week. After a visit with his parents, W. H. Hamm left Tuesday to resume his duties as superintendents of the Huntsville, AL. grammar school. W. M. Ballard, of Springfield, ILL. arrived Saturday to spend a few weeks in the home of his uncle, S. K. Fowlkes. Mr. Ballard brought his dogs and guns along and will enjoy hunting.

**GRAVEL HILL:** After spending the holidays with relatives and friends here. Roy and Clyde Huggins have returned to their work in Memphis. Arthur Huggins of Memphis and Edgar Huggins of Corinth, visited relatives and friends here Christmas day. Laurence Hewitt spent the holidays with his father here, returning to Memphis Sunday. Mrs. Temie Smith of Corinth spent the week - end with her mother, Mrs. J. C. Springer, of this place. Mrs. Floyd McBride of Dyer county is visiting her mother and other relatives here. Mrs. Sterling Duke of Selmer is visiting her mother, Mrs. Henry Jones, who has been confined to her bed for some time with paralysis, but little, if any improvement in her condition at this writing.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS: Home for the holidays were:**

Marvin Hamilton of Hornbeak visited his parents here last week.  
Mrs. Addie Browder spent Christmas with relatives in Memphis.  
R. O. Smith of Memphis visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Smith last wk  
Mrs. Lou Anderson is visiting her sister, Mrs. Moselle Hamilton on Pharr Ave  
Bob Hamilton, of Vanderbilt Law School, spent Christmas with his parents.  
Leonard J. Kerr and wife spent Christmas with the latter's parents, H. P. and Mrs. Wood.  
Frank Carman of Reelfoot Lake was the guest of Henry Carman and wife at Falcon..  
Mrs. Arthur Harris of Jackson visiting with her parents, Esq. and Mrs. W. H. Stone.  
Mr. and Mrs. Noah Basham of Nashville visiting of relatives in Selmer.  
Miss Clara Mae Prather, a teacher in the Memphis school, visited her parents in Selmer.  
Misses Mary and Estelle Gillespie, teachers in Chester county, visited with their parents.  
G. A. Maxedon and family of Alamo were the guest of relatives in Selmer during the holidays.  
W. J. Darby, foreman for the Sheffield street railway, visited his daughter, Mrs. Terry Abernathy.  
Miss Jessie Steadman, pharmacist in Paris, spent the holidays with her parents in Selmer  
Miss Ida McAlpin, stenographer, in Selmer last week.  
Prof. W. G. Hamm, teacher in Huntsville, AL. spent the holidays with his parents in Mt. Vernon.  
J. B. Steadman, bookkeeper for Lee Wilson at Armored, AR. Visited with homefolks

**JANUARY 11,1924**

**82d BIRTHDAY:** Capt. J. R. Adams, McNairy county's pioneer banker, and one of its foremost citizens for a half century and more, celebrated his 82d birthday at the home on Cypress Avenue January 4, 1924. He is yet vigorous for one of his age, and makes his daily visits to the McNairy County Bank, giving his personal attention to the business. Beside he attends church and Sunday school regularly, and is very much interested in the happenings of the times. He has lost none of his love for the chase, nor for the fox hounds. He is just now the owner of four six weeks' old male puppies, and they receives his personal attention also. We wish him many, many returns of the day, and happiness for the year 1924.

**MARRIED:** Biedsoe (Boots ) Wilson and Miss Algie Hester, both popular young people of the New Salem neighborhood, were married Saturday at the courthouse, by Hon. W. R. Nickles, Chairman of the county court. Mr. Wilson is one of the popular young farmers of his section and the bride is the daughter of Francis Hester, one of the best citizens of the county. We wish them much happiness.

**GRAVEL HILL:** Jim Hamm, well known over this county and who has a host of relatives here, died at Corinth, Monday after ten days confinement to his bed, at the age of 75 years. His remains were laid to rest beside his wife who preceded him 3 or 4 years ago. Rev. Hardwick , pastor of the church to which he belonged, conducted the funeral services. His children, two girls and two boys, were with him when the end came. We extend to them condolence in their bereavement.

**JANUARY 18, 1924 - YEARS AGO AT FALCON**

One of the first towns to be established after the Mobile and Ohio Railroad was

built in 1858 and 1859, was Falcon. It was then the first railroad stop after leaving Bethel Springs, being situated about seven miles south of the station. In the county forty and more years ago, were railroad stations at McNairy, Bethel Springs, Falcon and Ramer. What is now Selmer was then an old field, and between what is now Selmer and Falcon was an old water mill. The road leading from the east went to that old mill under a long trestle that has long since been filled, and that old road abandoned. Nothing but old ruins marks the place where once the scattered citizenship went to mill, and watched " their turn".

The town of Falcon was originally laid off in lots, there being about 54 in number. The business houses fronted the railroad, and there was a wide space or streets between these business houses, and the railroad property. Beautiful mulberry trees grew along this front, and these furnished ample shade in the summer time, and adorned the street as well. There was not much business done there until about the year 1871, when Rev. Bob Young removed his store from where he had operated it some two miles east. This old store stood on the north side of the lane just west of where J. C. Gilbert now lives. The old oak tree that stood near the store has long since fallen down, and there is nothing to indicate that any house ever stood on the spot.

When Uncle Bob Young began the mercantile business at Falcon in 1871, there was nothing of what afterwards was a beautiful little village. But soon C. M. Jeans opened up a store, and then came, D. Horn & Co., Jeans & Prather, J. L. Smith, W. E. Tedford, H. C. Gooch, H. A. Hunter, J. B. Maxedon, Prather and Simpson, J. M. Nelson, F. P. Browder, R. H. Freeman, W. E. Atkins, Phil Holcombe and others.

The early doctors were Drs. C. Prather, Jones, W. E. Atkins, J. L. Smith. The drug store was operated for nearly fifty years by Polk Browder, who died a short time ago. Some of the early teachers of the old town were Prof. H. O. Norman, Fronabarger, Kirkpatrick and M. R. Abernathy. The latter taught school there in 1880 and 1881. Among the life of the old students, those attending school in the latter years were

B. T. Baker, Ben Basinger, John Basinger, Will and Ben and Annie Boatman, Bettie Brooks, D. A. Coleman, Steve Dickey and sister, Jim and Lucinda Dunaway, Fayette Fisher, Oliver Gooch, Pink Harris, Frank Higginbottom, Mose and Davy Holcombe, Samuel and Josie Hostetter, Mary and Rosa Hostetter, Henry Horn, Emma and Etta Jones, James M. Jones, Andrew Lawton, Frank Locke, Tonie, Eulah, Due and Ed McAfee, Charlie McCullar, Dave and Willy Mitchell, Minnie Nelson, Lee and Frank Nethery, Moxie Pahles, John Rosson and sister, Rachel Roten, Ed and Callie Smith, Clint and Ed Stone, David Surratt, J. L. Swain, John R Thrasher, C. C. Taylor, Mattie Warren and Pierce Winningham and many others whom a hazy recollection now fails to call to memory.

The old blacksmith were M. L. Carman and Aaron Gage, and Josh Mitchell and Dan Callicut, the latter two being colored ones. At one time in the remote past, a Jew, by the name of Mendall, who came from Corinth, operated a saloon.

The old schoolhouse stood on the hill about where the new one now stands, and the only church, one erected by the Methodist, was just across the branch on the south side of the town, on the right of the road as you went out toward the Si Jeans place. All denominations used it. Within its wall, long since fallen, Rev. R. P. Meeks, T. G. Pettigrew and Robert Lee Harris, preached strong and forceful sermons.

About 1884 the county seat was removed there from Purdy, and Courts were held there for some time before the removal question was settled by a Supreme Court decision. The

lawyers there were J. W. Pace, A. W. Stovall, D. A. McDougal, J. D. Christopher, and T. J. Barden. This election that took the county seat to Falcon was held on the 23d day of August, 1884. There was cast 1921 votes for removal and 560 against it. On the 6th day of October, 1884, the county court met and canvassed the votes, and declared that the constitutional two-thirds majority had voted for removal. Dr. J. L. Smith, W. H. Stone and others, living then at Falcon, were elected a committee to transfer the books and records to the new county seat. Very soon there after, those opposing the removal obtained an injunction. Chancellor Nixon, a venerable jurist, heard the case after the taking of 500 depositions. His decision was in favor of Purdy and no removal. The case went to the Supreme Courts, where action of the lower courts was affirmed. The lawyers in that important litigation were Pitts and Hayes for Purdy, and A. W. Campbell and W. M. Inge for Falcon. The Circuit Judge who presided over, the courts at Falcon was T. B. Bateman, and the Attorney General was M. H. Meeks. T. F. Dalbey was then the Circuit Court Clerk, J. R. Adams, the County Court Clerk, J. H. Curry, Register, W. D. Jopling, Sheriff, J. L. Littlefield, Trustee, J. T. Barnhill, County representative, R. E. Mc Kinney, Clerk and Master, Jo Williams, the railroad agent.

The first newspaper ever published in the town was the Falcon Worker, by M. R. Abernathy. After that W. E. Grimes and C. C. Lewter published papers in the town. The old Holcombe Hotel was situated on the south end of the row of buildings, just south of the printing office. Mrs. E. E. Warren later ran a good hotel on the hill overlooking the town.

The old graveyard on the east, about one mile out, was laid off nearly fifty years ago, and the first grave in the old cemetery was that of an infant of Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Smith, its name being Lelia.

W. R. Carman, a resident of Falcon since 1876, is the only one of the number left of those living there then. The old Moss Nelson store yet stands. On the front of the old store is written in pencil " First bale of cotton brought in by Charlie Hill and sold to J. M. Nelson Sep. 23, 1886, at 9 cents". The Charlie Hill referred to was the father of J. H. Hill, and the grandfather of Mrs. O. S. Abernathy.

But time has changed all these things and only a few of the many now remains. The old town, once populated with a prosperous and contented citizenship, is no more. And verily:  
"Few are left to greet us, Tom, and few are left to know  
Who played with us upon the green some forty years ago".

### **JANUARY 18, 1924**

**RAMER :** Vernice Kirk has gone to teach the McCullough School near Action. He was accompanied by his father, E. G. Kirk, who returned Monday afternoon. J. A. Houston left Saturday night for Washington to take up his duties as secretary to Congressman Browning. J. F. McLaughlin, L. H. Morrow and L. D. King, and families, of the Hurley neighborhood, are leaving for Dyer and Union counties to make their home.

**PROMINENT MAN DEAD:** As we go to press, the sad news comes to us of the sudden death of C. C. Plunk, one of the foremost citizen of the county. He was about 60 years of age, and is survived by his wife and two children, Otis and Miss Ethel. He had gone to Jackson on Tuesday and was taken suddenly ill at McNairy on his return, and unable to reach his home. He died at the home of Newt Owens at McNairy Thursday. In his death the county loses one of it most progressive, useful and influential citizens.



**A LONG TIME AGO:** Lexington, Tenn. Jan. 14, 1924 - McNairy County Independent;

Ever since I went to Purdy on the morning of the 9th of last October, to celebrate the Centennial of McNairy County and Horry Hodges, and as I entered the site of the town where I discovered America on the 27th of March, 1858, and saw the old Fielding Hurst home standing, I have been tempted to write to "The Abernathy Boys" a pernicious which the site of the old Hurst home brought to my mind. I have been afraid that some parts of my story might be offensive, but as everybody who knows me at all, knows that I have nothing but love in my heart for the whole human family (with a few exceptions, for the late Judge Frank Wilson of the Court of Civil Appeals told me that he never saw a rule in his life that was worth ad\_m (?) without several exceptions.) I have decide to risk it; so if the Independent does not see fit to publish my reminiscence, it can return my manuscript postage collect --- but I have provided for even that by the use of a sheet of carbon paper.

Well, while the late Fielding Hurst was personal friend of my father, the late Dr. Daniel Barry, and on that account refrained from burning our home in Purdy, on back street next door north of the Dr. W. C. Kindel home and diagonally across the street and the alley that ran from the Gulledge place, which I can remember seeing the soldiers burn). He is admitted by many to have been a bad man and his name is yet held in execration by some people who lived in and have branched out from Purdy and McNairy County. Colonel Hurst died and left living in the Hurst home on the north of the public square, his widow, "Aunt Locky", who had some peculiarities, but still was a woman of many splendid qualities - but it was only incidentally that Aunt Locky was to come into this story, the "leading man" in which is intended to be one Charlie Chamness, unless indeed, I might give Anderson Jones, a small size, very black negro barber and fiddler of the town, the leading role. Well, it is needless for me to state that Charley Chamness was not popular, for he was not with whites or blacks, either the Southern people or those of the whites who countenanced the Brownlow niger militia, "who ran amuck one memorable day in Purdy and killed Bill Lewis, the sheriff of the county." Now, I come to the part played in my story by Charlie Chamness, which had finally died. From time to time, some one would come up from the east side and report on the condition of Chamness, until finally the statement was made in the presence of Anderson Jones that Chamness had just died. Anderson Jones, with all the solemnity one could imagine, made the remark, "I wish Aunt Locky Hurst had know Charlie Chamness was going to die today". He was asked "Why?" by a bystander Anderson calmly replied "That was the best chance to send a letter to hell since I have lived in Purdy".

Anderson Jones died long since and it was a wonder somebody did not kill him, for he proved he would hit any white man who accused him of stealing.

Most of the other I can recall as being in Purdy at that time are dead, and here I am only going on sixty - six - but as I am "down in my back," I had better quit - with apologies to all who do not like to have those days recalled.

However, if the Independent publishes this, I will be tempted to write another reminiscence about Esq. Jon. W. Stumph sending Wylie Baucum home in a hurry one First Monday night about 11 O'clock after the Squire had sent Wylie's nephew to jail without trail.

**ROSE HILL:** Joe Gage and wife of California have been called to the bedside of the former's mother here. Mrs. Annie Kerby was recently called from the bedside of her mother, Mrs. J. T. Gage, to attend her little daughter, Irene, who was sick.

**GRAVEL HILL:** Mrs. Henry Jones who was stricken with paralysis, some time ago, died at her home here Saturday night at the age of 80. Her remains were laid to rest in the Gravelhill cemetery Sunday afternoon, Rev. Hammons conducting a short and impressive funeral service. She leaves an aged husband and three daughters to mourn her loss, and to whom we extend our condolence in these sad hours of bereavement.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS:** Jo Draper, an old and respected colored man, of the 8th district fell in the fire at his home one day last week and was so severely burned that he died in a short time. He was afflicted with epilepsy and it is presumed that one of these spells seized him, and he fell into the fire place.

Sheriff Walter Johnson, of Jonesboro, AR. was in Selmer Monday. He took back with him a man by the name of Hill who has been living in the west part of the county for two years. Hill was arrested Saturday by McNairy county officers for an alleged murder committed in jail to await the arrival of an officer to take to Jonesboro for trial.

**DEATH OF C. C. Plunk:** In our last issue we made brief mention of the death of C. C. Plunk, the news of his untimely taking away, coming to us just as we were ready to go to press. His death has cast a gloom over the section of the county in which he lived, for he was one of the most widely and favorably known of any of the citizens there.

He was born in McNairy county, and in the neighborhood where he spent his life, being at the time of his death about 63 year of age. He attended the neighborhood school and was one of the pupils of the late M. R. Abernathy, at old Purdy. He obtained a good education, and was well informed. His life was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and he was one of the most progressive farmers of the county. Much of his time and means were given to promote the education interests of the county, and in all of the progressive movements in the county, C. C. Plunk was always found in the forefront. He was only recently chosen the Presidents of the County Farm Bureau. Because of his interest in the welfare of the farmers of the county, he made visits to others section, and became familiar with the various problems that confront the farmer. It was on one of these visits that he become so desperately sick that he was unable to reach his home, dying at the home of Newton Owens, in McNairy, on the morning of Jan. 17, 1924. He had gone to Jackson, Tenn. to attend an agricultural meeting on the 14th, and only left home that morning.

Mr. Plunk was married in 1888 and his wife, and two children, Otis, a prominent young farmer, and Miss Ethel, one of the public school teachers of the county, survive him.

His remains were laid to rest in the old burying grounds at Liberty on the afternoon of the 18th. Mr. Deaton and Etheridge had charge of the funeral arrangements. Rev. Raiston and Canaday, conducted the funeral services at the church, J. R. Swain having charge of music, W. T. McKell, W. K. and Terry Abernathy, and Charlie Lipford spoke briefly on the life and character of the deceased, paying deserved tribute to him as a citizen, neighbor and friends.

The deceased was a member of one of the oldest families in the county. His paternal ancestors settling in the neighborhood where he spent his life, in the early thirties.

For many years he was a justice of the peace, a member of the county board of education, and in the positions which he tilled, he had the confidence, of the people. His judgement was

sound, and he was firm and resolute, but always ready to hear the facts before making up his mind on any proposition.

He was a kind hearted man, a devoted husband, and a most indulgent father. The county will feel the loss of such a man, and we join the many in expression of sorrow over his death, and of sympathy to the loved ones behind.

## **FEBRUARY 1, 1924**

**ADAMSVILLE:** The town of Adamsville was founded about 1835, by G. G. Adams, from whom it took its name, and who was one of the first merchants, and Justices of the Peace. It is located on the eastern boundary line of McNairy county, and near the western border of Hardin county. It is one of the best inland towns, if not the very best, in the State. It has a population of about seven hundred inhabitants, with a rich and fertile country around it, and with a citizenship equal to any place on earth. For social and religious people it is unexcelled.

Its first merchants were G. G. Adams, W. G. Rogers, John Bowman, and George Cox, brother of Mrs. Rachel Abernathy. The town was first started just east of where J. E. Dollar now lives, and west of where the town is now situated. Soon afterward, the town was moved between where it is today located, and near where the Baptist Church now stands. It was settled by Anderson Cox, father of Mrs. Rachel Abernathy, on the west, and from North Carolina, and James Scott, on the north by H. F. Newell, the father of J. B. Newell, who became one of the leading merchants prior to, and just after the Civil War period, Dr. Walker, J. M. Jones, Keedle T. Wynn, Jesse Jones, Albert Scott, owning and farming the lands where the town is now located, on the south by Robert McWhirter, William Rogers, and John L. Grover, on the east by Maury, James Scott, who settled and lived there a life time. He amassed a great deal of wealth in real estate, and raised a large family of children, who made the country valuable citizens, helping to develop the town and country. Still north, and outside of the town, lived William Holman, who was a soldier and merchant in the Jackson war of 1812. He had a large land grant where the Tidwell Brothers now own. He became the needed blacksmith of the new country, and in this family the blacksmith work and tailoring of the country was done until years after the Civil War.

The McWhirters tanned all leathers for the people, William Rogers manufactured the whiskeys, John Helbert, living west of the town, manufactured all kinds of furniture, then used by the country at large. The Stanleys did the wool carding, from which all the clothing for winter wear was manufactured, also the hosiery, and such like, making the wool carders in that day indispensable. The Wilson families were early settlers west of Adamsville, as were the Kerrs, John Lindsay, William Cleary, Carroll Haily, Jesse Merrill, the Surratts, Findley Gorrell, and Thomas Combs.

The first land warrant was laid for Revolutionary service embodying a large tract of land east of Adamsville, from which the base survey of the town is formed even yet. George Brasfield's lands reached over into Hardin county, and is known as Entry No 6764, in many deeds of records in Hardin county.

The first school teacher were Green and Thomas Hanks, Prof. Andrew Yancy, Authalius Atar, Mrs. Rosetta Jones (afterward's) Mrs. Rosetta Surratt, oldest sister of Mrs. Rachel Abernathy at the time there were no school house or church building inside the city limits, but

these schools were taught at a Baptist church, called Pleasant Ridge, which was about two miles out, northwest of the town. Mrs. Rosetta Surratt was a daughter of Anderson Cox, who settled the place where the Baptist church is now located and now owned by the J. E. Hamilton heirs. The first school building was built just after the Civil War on Main Street running north, where J. A. Stanton now resides. The first church building was a Methodist church, where the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now stands. The next was the Christian church, built mainly by G. W. Sipes, then the Baptist church built mainly by J. T. Warren, then Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built mainly by Alphonso and Luther Fariss.

The first man who practiced as physicians until they each died, then came Drs. T. F. and Jasper Jones, Drs. W. M. and James L. Sanders, Dr. Freeling, Dr. A. A. Jones, all of whom are dead except Dr. T. F. Jones, who now resides and practices medicine at Albany, LA.

The teachers of note since the Civil War period are T. F. Sanders, and M. R. Abernathy, but M. R. Abernathy stayed longer and did more to build up an education interest, and bestir the young men and woman to cultivate and educate themselves, than any other one man. Prof. Abernathy became a great leader in the school work of the county, he being recognized as a foremost teacher. From his efforts many young men became useful and worth - while citizens of this and other states.

Adamsville is the birth place and early home of many useful men, namely, Shelly Wolventon, W. K. and Terry Abernathy, Dr. A. J. Wolverton, who always claimed he was prompted and started out by Prof. M. R. Abernathy, W. S. Wolverton is getting far advanced in age, but is still a leading citizen of Ardmore, OKLA. where he is leading in church building work, and is called the father of Methodism, at his home city. T. Wash Scott was reared here, and became minister from this Government to Mexico, just after the Civil War times being appointed by President Andrew Johnson. R. F. Scott was made the first major of Adamsville, and was acting in 1870, when he was accidently killed by a steam mill explosion.

John Hooker and Neddy Willet lived out north of town in the early setting of the county, as did Captain James Morrow, who helped to cut the first thoroughfare leading from east to west, and called the Stage Road.

J. P. Prince and Surratt built a store house here before the Civil War, and this is today standing next to the Stock Store, a two - story wooden building. Then this two - story building was considered a very large mercantile building, and was the talk of the entire county, like some of the sky scraper building in cities are today.

Unfortunately Adamsville had saloons prior to the war which were gathering places for a few sorts, who annoyed law - abiding men, and forbade women from attending the town on Saturday, as drunkenness was prevalent. It was not safe for a lady to be at Adamsville on such days, least she be insulted by profanity which filled the air at the time, hindering the progress and up building of the town for many years.

Mrs. Gilbert Combs was the first postmistress of Adamsville and served for years, when the postage was paid, when the letter was called for, as its destination. Then later J. Monroe Wolverton was for years postmaster, after the stamp was placed upon each letter when it was started on its mission to the addressee.

Miss Matilda Ann Holman made all men's clothing, until the War period, when she became old, and her health gave away. Then followed Miss Sallie Holman, now Mrs. Sallie Wolverton, who took charge of this line of work, and while she is above 80 years, still does her

bit, in this line. All fine broadcloth goods were manufactured by these ladies, when ready - to - wear clothing was never brought here by merchants, as they practiced economy in the strictest sense of the word. In the early days of Adamsville, all plows, hoes, axes, hammers, and all farm tools were manufactured here by the Holmans. The wool was carded by the Stanley's, the furniture by J. H. Helbert, the leather for shoes tanned by the McWhirters, the whiskeys made by William Rogers, and all shoes worn were manufactured by home manufacturers, who lived in the communities. Hence, only a small portion of what was used in those days was shipped in from other places. The farmers brought each year, one barrel of sugar, one barrel of Louisiana syrup, and a bag of about 150 pounds of green coffee, and this was their yearly supply.

Rev. A. B. Jones was the local Methodist preacher, who filled appointments, when the pastor failed to get around on the circuit, and also solemnized the rites of matrimony, when any couple wanted to get married. Uncle Jesse Jones entertained at his home all Circuit Riding Methodist preachers, as they generally wanted to live at a distance, so they could put up and stay with him.

Adamsville has been the home place of several of the county officers since the Civil War, among those were Hon. J. B. Jones, Dr. Jobe Bell, and Dr. G. H. Bulter, who represented McNairy county in the General Assembly of the State, Jas. L. Littlefield, J. H. Scott and F. O. Hamilton as county Trustees, and W. H. Hamilton, Register of Deeds and Public Documents.

There are many person and things associated with Adamsville in the early history of the town, and personal mention of men, that would be interesting, but space forbids further mention. By Jas. L. Littlefield.

**ROSE HILL:** Mrs. Mary Hubanks spent a part of last week with her sister Mrs. W. C. Holland. Joe Gage and wife have returned to their home in California, after a visit of almost two weeks to the former's parents.

**A NOTED MAN :** Uncle Ben Darby a citizen of Gravel Hill, is the most noted man, I know of this county. He is 93 years old, and is still very active. He was born in 1831. He is able to harness his horse, hitch him to his buggy and drive anywhere he wishes to go.

Uncle Ben is a man of fine character, very liberal and always ready to help those who needs help. He is a fine citizen, takes great interest in good roads and schools and churches. He is also a first - class veterinarian and is a good speaker, and has delivered many interesting speeches in the neighborhood in which he now lives. We fell that his speeches have been a benefit to both old and young. Despite his age, he goes to church and hears all denominations.

Uncle Ben has a remarkable memory. He fought through the civil war of the sixties and can tell many interesting incidents that occurred during the war. The writer spent a few hours with him a few days past which were enjoyed so much.

Uncle Ben says he is going to live to be 100 years old. I hope he may live many years yet, as such a man would be great missed. I could write much more concerning this noble man, but as this is my first time, I will not write any more. With my best wishes I am. Very Respectfully,

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF OLD McNAIRIANS**

We present in this article short biographical sketches of some of the old people who settled and lived in McNairy county more than a half century ago. Some of this information we get from ago, and some we obtain from descendants of these old people.

### **THE MILSTEADS**

Away back in the early history of the county they settled in the southwest part of McNairy county a sturdy citizen, one whose descendants made valuable contributions to the up building of the communities in which they lived. Before the Civil War, Uncle Jo Milstead, originally from Virginia, but more recently from Middle Tennessee, came to McNairy county, and settled the place that we know now as the Al Fortune place, in the first district of this county being on the road leading then from old Purdy to Pocahontas.

He married Peggie Witt, born in Ireland, and to this union they were born the following children: Tom, Hugh, George, and Zeal, twins, and Jo Milstead, and Eliza, who married an Evans and another daughter, Katherine. His son George Milstead, settled the place now occupied by Dug Fortune, until a short time ago, the home of J. C. Milstead. George Milstead married Emiline Russell, and they had the following children; W. T. Milstead, J. C. Milstead, Mary Eliza, G. F. and S. A. Milstead.

In the community or settlement as it was know before the war, neighbors of Uncle Jo Milstead, and his son, George Milstead, were John G. Gooch, Frank Fortune, Carr Brown, Jimmie Nethery, (father of Sam Nethery) Jerry King, Nathan Moore, Bob Locke, Jo Thorton, the Knights, Wiley B. T. Gooch, J. L. W Boatman, Rafe Steadman, H. A. Hunter, Cab Coleman, Billie Wallace, and Ben and Jo Wallace.

The old church was a Primitive Baptist one, near the old John G. Gooch place. The early preachers were John Teague, G. Benthall, John Moore, and Frankie Beard. The old millers were Nathan Moore, John G. Gooch, Jack Strickland and Sammie Jones. A school was taught at different times at the same place.

Pocahontas was the nearest town, and the place where the community trading was done. Its merchants were John M. Nelson an uncle of Moss Nelson, the old Falcon merchant, Elisha Reagan, Ed Duke, and others. At that time there was a store and saloon operated on the north side of the Southern railroad, and west of the Big Hill crossing. Jim Northcross was one of the merchants there, and so was Capt. Crocker. Nath Moore operated a distillery about where the old G. W. Bartley mill was later located.

Uncle Jo Milstead lived to the ripe old age of ninety - seven years, and was buried in the old Mt. Pleasant graveyard. George Milstead, his son, was buried in the old Nethery graveyard.

When this settlement was made in that part of the first district, they were no towns. There was not a railroad then, and not for a long time afterwards. The people who came were of a determined kind and the dangers and hardship that attended the life of each of them, only served to strengthen their courage and faith. They felled the forests, and began the primitive cultivation of the soil. They made a place for worship, and provided a rude habitation for the children, that they might get the benefits of some sort of education. They employed the old field teacher and in a plain, simple way, but in a though and effective way, the boys and girls were trained in the fundamentals of life.

### **FRANCIS BEARD ( UNCLE FRANKIE )**

Francis Beard, once known in many section of the county as Uncle Frankie Beard, was a South Carolinian by birth, being born there in the middle of the last decade of the 18th century in 1827, two years after Purdy was established. He married to Miss Margaret Brown, and to this union were born several children, among the number being, John A. Beard, once a familiar figure in the history of old Purdy.

He was a Primitive Baptist preacher, and established the first church near where Rosehill is now. In his day he traveled over the greater part of the county, preaching at different places. He was well know in the old Gravelhill community, Old Pleasant and Winding Ridge, Chapel Hill and what is now the Liberty and Rosehill, communities. He continued actively in the work of the ministry until about the year 1850, when he became a member of the Masonic fraternity.\* He continued to preach, however, large congregations assembling wherever he went. He was one of the early justices of the peace, serving as such for nearly twenty years.

In his neighborhood were many early settlers of the county. Daniel Hill, who came from Jefferson County, Tenn. settled in that neighborhood, in the Rosehill and liberty settlement now. He had eight sons and their families with him, and also his two sons - in - law, Isaiah Coffman and Thomas Griffin, and their families. And then there was Benjamin Walker, William Beaty, Samuel Houston, Wilson, Bell, Plunk, and others.

The subject of this sketch died in 1867, honored and beloved by the people with whom he had been so long associated, and sleeps in the old Beaty graveyard, where so many of the early settlers were laid to rest.

\* Note: Primitive Baptist doctrine prohibited association to any organization, such as Masons.

### **FEBRUARY 8, 1924**

**RAMER:** W. M. Ballard has returned Saturday from a visit with his sister, Mrs. Buckley, at Enterprise, Miss. Mrs. J. R. Hamms and daughter, O'lvia returned Tuesday night, from a few days visit with her sister, Mrs. A. E. Lawson, at Bells. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson are receiving congratulation upon the arrival of a fine son in their home.

Mrs. Boatman, aged mother of Mrs. H. G. Gooch, died Sunday after a long illness. She was a consistent member of the Christian church. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon by Rev. J. A. Houston, with interment in Ramer cemetery.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS:** Mrs. H. C. Perkins has returned from an extended visit to her parents in Arkansas, and resumed her position, as stenographer in the law office of Judge H. P. Wood. J. N. Hamm, Mrs. Elsie Farris, Esq. J. B. Huggins and Wylie Randolph of Gravelhill and G. C. Springer and wife of Miami, Texas, who are visiting relatives in the Gravel Hill section, were in Selmer Monday.

### **FEBRUARY 22, 1924**

**ANOTHER VETERAN GONE:** Capt. W. T. Powers, so well and favorably known here and in Hardin County, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Hattie Spears, in Clifton, on

the 8th of February, 1924. The deceased was born in Hardin county, on the 10th day of March 1837 and was therefore about 87 years of age. On July 4, 1865, he married Sarah Reeder, a sister of John Reeder, one of the pioneer citizens of the county. His wife died many years ago, and he is survived by the following children; Oscar Powers and Mrs. B. F. Johnson and Mrs. Hattie Spears, of Clifton, Mrs. S. P. Weller, and Mrs. C. V. Weller, and Miss Sallie Powers of Savannah.

Capt. Powers was of the old school a perfect type of the old Southern gentleman. He was universally liked. He organized a company of soldiers at Savannah in the early part of the Civil War, Company B. 45th Regiment Tennessee Volunteers, and was its Captain. He was in the battle of Shiloh and his record as a soldier was without a blemish and in the year that followed he was a most exemplary citizen.

He became a Mason in the old Savannah Lodge No. 102, about the beginning of the Civil War, and was a member of the Methodist church there from its organization to the date of his death. The remains of this old soldier and citizen sleeps in the cemetery at Savannah, where they were laid on the 9th day of February, 1924. So one by one go these old people and the ranks grow thinner day by day.

**Mrs Cora Springer:** Mrs. Cora Springer, aged 67 years, the widow of J. C. Springer, died at her home near Gravelhill on the morning of February 19, 1924. She was the sister of Esq. J. B. Huggins, and the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Huggins, 89 years of age. The deceased is survived by the following children; Cleveland, Clarence, Claud, Carl and Mesdames Emmons, Latta McBride and Smith and Miss Dora Springer. The remains were laid to rest beside her husband in the old burial grounds of the family, Rev. Hammond preacher the funeral, and R. B. Gooch was the undertaker in charge.

**J W Carothers:** John William Carothers, 62, died at 2:30 yesterday morning at the Baptist Memorial Hospital following an operation. He had been in bad health for several months. Mr. Carothers was born in Adamsville, Tenn., in 1862, but had been a resident of Memphis for 18 years. He was the father of J. A. and John W. Carothers JR. and Mrs. Minnie Oliver, of this city, and E. Carothers of Silerton, Tenn., a brother of Mrs. Delia Massengill of Leapwood, Tenn. Mrs. Fannie Barnes of Finger, Tenn., and Jas. H. Carothers of Adamsville, Tenn.

Funeral service will be held from the residence, 700 Court Avenue, 1 o'clock this afternoon, conducted by Rev. George Carman. Friends are invited, Interment will be in Elmwood Cemetery. (The above appeared in the Commercial Appeal of Sunday, February 17, 1924. The deceased was well known here, having lived for some time in Selmer. He was reared in the 11th district, and belongs to one of the oldest families in the county.)

**LOCAL NEWS:** (This is not Selmer - maybe Trantham) Eldridge Stewart of Charleston, S. C. is visiting his brother, Brown Stewart, of this community. Miss Alphan Hurst spent the week - end with Misses Greens at Guys. Floyd Mitchell of Corinth was visiting his sister, Mrs. Walter Haynes, recently. Walter Haynes has been visiting his parents at Wenesago this week.

**FINGER NEWS:** Defoy McKenzie, who is teaching in Trezavant high school, visited friends here last weekend. Mrs. Barnhart of Jackson visited her sister, Mrs. G. F. Dickey, last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Naylor of Jackson visited homefolk in Finger Saturday and Sunday. Several Memphis people attended the funeral of Mrs. J. W. Stancel, who was laid to



rest in Oak Grove cemetery Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. T. B. May have returned to their home in Memphis. J. W. Stancel is visiting his daughter in Memphis.

**GUYS:** J. E. Meeks and wife of Corinth, spent Sunday with the former's parents here. Mrs. Houston Meeks and baby were here several days last week visiting relatives before joining Houston who has a position with the National Fire Insurance Co., at Dyersburg.

#### **FEBRUARY 22, 1924**

**GRAVEL HILL:** Mrs. C. C. Springer, widow of J. C. Springer, who died five years ago, died at her home Tuesday after ten days, illness with paralysis. She leaves a broken - hearted mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Huggins, who is nearing her 89th birthday, two sisters, three brothers, and ten children, five sons and five daughters, to mourn her loss. Her children were all present when the end came except the oldest boy who lives in Oregon, and who was prevented from being on account of sickness in his home. Her remains were laid to rest beside her husband in the family cemetery Wednesday afternoon, Rev. T. R. Hammons, her pastor conducting the funeral services.

M. D. Huggins and Mrs. R. T. Emmons of Henry Grove, Texas were summoned to the bedside of Mrs. C. C. Springer last week, she being a sister of the former and mother of the latter.

Mrs. P. J. Huggins of Corinth is visiting her daughter, Mrs. A. M. Hamm, here this week. Mr. and Mrs. Ran Smith of Corinth spent the week - end in the home of his brother, J. Will Smith.

Tommie Robinson of Jackson, Tennessee, and Miss Vassie Barnes, the 14 year old daughter of Edgar Barnes, Main Street Merchants, were married on the 9th of February, 1924, at the residence of Esq. J. H. Hill, of Ramer, he performing the ceremony. The bride is a grand - daughter of Mrs. G. W. Barnes.

On Sunday, Feb. 17, 1924, Emery Horner and Miss Minnie Murry were married at Purdy, Rev. C. N. Ralston performing the ceremony. The groom is the driver for the Standard Oil Co. and the bride the attractive daughter of J. R. Murry and wife.

#### **FEBRUARY 29, 1924**

**BUENA VISTA:** Rritta Laughin is visiting her sister, Mrs. Oscar Whitten, this week. Little Blondell Johnson has been visiting her grandfather, Jon. Harris for several days. Charlie Hand of Florence visiting his brother, Newt Hand, here this week.

**RAMER:** Mrs. Grover Robertson and son, of Guys were guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Reeder, Saturday night and Sunday. Lieu. Dixon left a few days ago for Yorksville where he will be joined by his family to make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Huggins are receiving congratulations upon the arrival of twins, a boy and a girl, in their home on the 22nd., to whom they have given the names George and Martha.

Miss Ota Mae Meeks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Meeks, and a bride of a Mr. Wilson, of Freeport, ILL., were married Tuesday of last week and left for northern home. Their courtship grew out of a correspondence, they not having met until the groom's arrival here the day before the marriage.

**GRAVEL HILL:** M. D. Huggins and Mrs. R. T. Emmons left Saturday for their home in Texas, John and Dora Springer went with them and will make their home with their sister, Mrs. Emmons. Cleveland Springer and wife left Monday for their home in Texas.

**ROSE HILL:** Mrs. Mary Hubanks is attending the bedside of her sister, Mrs. Jennie Holland, who is very sick. Mrs. W. W. Kirby spent Monday at the bedside of the sister - in - law Mrs. Frank Beard, who is very sick.

Miss Robert Hipps of Bethel Springs spent Saturday and Sunday with her grandfather, T. A. Hipps who is sick at the time of this writing.

Montie Beard and wife, of Birmingham, ALA., have arrived here to attend the bedside of the former's mother.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS:** Mrs. W. H. Stone left this week to visit her daughter, Mrs. Joe Alexander at Pocahontas. D. L. Dixon was in Selmer Saturday on his way to Gibson county where he was moved his family. He lived for a long time between Ramer and Chewalla.

### **MARCH 14, 1924** **MORE ABOUT PURDY OF OLDEN TIMES**

Lexington, Tenn. March 8, 1924  
McNairy County Independent;

Reading one of your " Bits of History " - that installment covering the matter of the old McCann account book, put me to recalling how many of the characters mentioned I could myself remember, with this results;

Gen. John H. Meeks, who was referred to as then a member of the Legislature, I remember very well - and at one time in my recollection he was said to be the one strongest man, politically, in McNairy county.

Dr. W. C. Kindel was a brother - in - law of my father, the late Dr. Daniel Barry, and the last time I ever saw him was in 1876, when I went after him from Flatwoods, Wayne County, to Purdy, to get him to go to see my mother who was on her death bed. He was ill himself and so I left Purdy without him and rode up to Flatwood when my mother was being buried. We children called him ' grandpap ' , and regarded him as a great man - which he was.

Uncle John Beard is referred to - and how many readers of the Independent have ever heard the story of Uncle John making his only speech at Bethel Springs as a candidate for tax collector ? Well, Ruling Elder Jim Purviance will remember that when Uncle John got a pair of new shoes, he always went to Taylor Sutton's saddle shop and got him to sew on a buckle and strap, which Uncle John fully intended to fasten of using strings - but never did. " So, when Uncle John arose before the crowd at Bethel there was a deathly silence, and he began and ended his speech by screaming, " Fellow Citizens, I am a candidate for tax collector of McNairy county, and my name is John A. Beard - by Gosh! I am a son of old Franky Beard, who preached to you for forty years and never give him a darn cent. Now, fellow citizens, you can vote for me or kiss my foot, as you darn please".

The story might have been over - drawn, but Uncle John was independent.

I just can remember old man Pat Braden, and I have laughed at a story I heard my

Daddy tell about Mr. Braden chasing a fellow across the public square at Purdy, with a mowing blade or wheat scythe, one first Monday. Mr. Braden and some fellow seemed to be having a settlement in a store at the old John Harris store site, where the Savannah road went out east from the public square. Daddy said every time old man Braden would accumulate a little speed and make a swipe at the fellow he was chasing, that fellow's stomach, would toot out in front, his back would bend like a bow and old Braden would fall behind.

Jack Kirby was a great farmer, hairy as a dog on arms and breast, exposed from April till October of each year, and he was a Republican. When dad moved to Memphis in the 1860's Uncle Jack and old Tom Lane used to come down to Federal court and on occasions stayed at our home on Alabama street. Uncle Jack wanted Dr. Kindle to stay at his home one night and Kindle objected, until Uncle Jack said he would give him a quarter of mutton next morning and ten dollars additional next fall. "Grandpap " stayed, and Uncle Jack had some fine girls - Sam Ingram married one.

I remember Dan Hill, he was a good - looking man - very different from Major who took breakfast at our house one morning when he came after dad to see his wife, and when Major finally consented to get down and eat a snack while waiting for the doctor, ate every darn bite on the table, so that my step - mother had to cook a new breakfast out and out for the children, who had not gotten up.

Seeing the name Hendrix makes me remember " Uncle Roddy " who lived to be past 90. There never was a finer man than " Uncle Roddy ", and I yet recommend the family as one of the best in the world, as I did when our Miss Lucile Scott taught in the Bethel Springs school and lived in the home of a Hendrix.

I remember Nath McAfee - how he was a constable and always carried a pair of saddlebags over his shoulder. One day Nath asked Bruce Turner, in the latter's store at Bethel, for a chew of tobacco, and would not give ad-n for the difference so go buy yourself a chew with the dime: - but it seems to me that it was Jim instead of Nath McAfee.

The main Walker that I can remember was Joe, who had run a grocery, sold whiskey, and I remember that my father said he was coming home to Purdy one day and some three miles out east met old John Chamness at a church meeting. Old John asked him if he was coming to town, and upon father answering in the affirmative, Chamness said,: All Right, I will go along with you, but when father said, " Get your horse, " old John replied that he was a foot, but would bet the liquor to the crowd at Joe Walker's grocery that he could beat the doctor to town. Father took him up and Mr. Chamness walked away. Directly the doctor started, turned a bend in the road, but saw no man ahead. He then made Frank, his famous saddle - horse, pace, then, gallop, and then he got to the hill on the east side of Purdy, the old Adams place, from where he could see the entrance to the public square between the store stands of Bob Pool and John Harris, he saw old John, hat in hand, enter the public square. When the doctor got to town, there was a crowd a plenty in front of Joe Walker's grocery.

Seeing the name of R. W. P. Pool, reminds me of the John V. Wright housewarming party, when Judge Wright married Miss Wommack, of Alabama, built that \$10,000 home on Front Street and gave the housewarming party, to which everybody was invited - regardless of social distinctions. The long and the short of that party was that Judge Wright was drunk and in bed by 9 o'clock, and missed his own party, and all the rest of the Purdy men who were present, were carried home drunk, by their wives. My daddy and Bob Pool stuck the champagne in a

room filled with all sort of spirituous liquors - and what happened to them the next morning is another story. The last time I ever saw Judge John V. Wright he was in my home in Decaturville in 1882, when he canvassed the state on what was called the Fussell ticket, I believe.

I wonder if the old man McCraw referred to in your article was the same old man McCraw who ran an eating house in the " Exchange " building, just as the Front Street left the public square, or was it some of the people of John B. McCraw, who was a violent Republican in Henderson, Tenn., but moved out to Honey Grove, Texas, and was at once a Democrat.

Was the J. C. Huddleston, " Buck " who lived at the old Hammond place, not far from the public square where Back Street leads out south ? Bud, a son of " Buck " Huddleston, threw a rock at my brother, Charlie, in a leather sling, and made me blind for life in one eye. Later I put out the other eye myself, but the sight of it came back after many months.

John Bell, a brother of Mrs. Sallie, wife of Ike Nash, I remember - also Frank, son of John and there was a Bell who ran a water mill south of Purdy. Ike Nash used to send Clay Sutton with his wagon to get meal at the Bell Mill.

As usual, when I write of the things that I remember about Purdy and McNairy County, the main thought is that but few of those recalled in mind are living - yet, I will be only 66 on March 27th more than 15 years younger than Col. Jeems Purviance the " Tall Sycamore " of Cypress creek, the pole of which was brought from a northern clime.

With love to everybody living black and white, in old " Snake " county, who remembers me, I am, Truly, W V. Barry.

### MARCH 14, 1924

**GRAVEL HILL :** Mrs. Jim Smith, who lived on the W. B. Burns, place, died last Wednesday after a short duration of sickness. Her remains were laid to rest in the Gravelhill cemetery Thursday, Rev. Brown of Selmer conducting the funeral services. Carl Springer and family left Sunday for West Texas where they will make their future home.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS:** Mrs. Lizzie Lockman is very sick at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. A. Gooch. H. C. Wardlow was in Selmer Saturday, accompanied by Henry Wardlow, his father.

Jim Hamm and wife, long residents of Oklahoma, and old citizens of the Mt. Vernon neighborhood, are visiting relatives in the county this week.

Will Wolfe, son of Nick Wolfe, a farmer and good citizen living on upper Crooked Creek, has the sympathy of his many friends in the recent death of his beloved wife.

W. B. Hooker recently spent a day in Corinth with his daughter, Mrs. Dave Pool.

In the death of W. C. Holland last Friday at his home near Liberty, the county loses one of its best citizens. Mr. Holland was 67 years old. He was stricken with pneumonia about a week before his death. Mrs. Holland was buried at the old Mt. Carmel cemetery. She was a sister of Esq. T. H. Sipes of the 3rd district and was the second wife of Mr. Holland, and a splendid woman. Mr. Holland and family resided in Selmer in 1915, when he carried the mail from Selmer to Stantonville. He was liked by everybody, and was an honest, upright man in every sense of the word. The surviving children are D. P. Holland, of Dyer county, E. C. and W. E.

Holland and Mrs. J. C. Hawkins of this county, and A. Holland, of Detroit, Mich. All of the children were present during the last hours and death of Mr. and Mrs. Holland, and to these broken hearted children we extend our heartfelt sympathy in these dark hours of bereavement. Cards of thanks names are, D. P. Holland, E. C. Holland, Ernest Holland, Arthur Holland, Mrs. Gracie Hawkins.

**MARCH 21, 1924**

**LUTHER R. LITTLEFIELD**

The subject of this sketch came to McNairy county in 1850, and while he was not among the very first settlers, yet, he came when the county was still new, and when it was necessary to clear lands, built homes, and help clear the way of the dense forests. He was born in Spartanburg, S. C., December 25, 1826. He was a descendant of William Littlefield, who came to America from England about or near 1700, and settled in Maryland where he married Rebecca Lee.

He raised four sons, among that number, William, the second who was the father of this sketch. William the second, coming to South Carolina and marrying Rebecca Bryant first, and second to Sarah Turner, who was the mother of L. R. Littlefield. William, the father, raised a son, Phillip Littlefield, who became a prosperous manufacturer, built a factory in South Carolina which was burned. He believing it was done by an incendiary, became discontented, moving to Carroll County, Tennessee, in 1831, with his father, and L. R. Littlefield. But soon after their arrival he lost his mother, and went on to Alabama, where L. R. Littlefield grew up to manhood. William Littlefield, being a professional teacher, and literary graduate, was now an old man and died in Alabama, leaving the subject of this sketch an orphan, ten years of age. So in 1845, he came to Tippah County, Miss., where he married Nancy A. Wolverton, and moved to McNairy county in 1850. He settled in the 15th civil district, where he remained on the same farm during the rest of his life, being reckoned among the foremost farmers of his community, always raising good crop, and having something to spare for those less fortunate. He often told that he never bought as much as one bushel of corn, after he first came.

He raised a large family of five daughters and six sons to manhood, doing his best to educate them and place them on the world self sustainingly. While he did not have the advantages of a first - class education, as did his father before him, yet as a farmer he was a success, offering much advice to his boys along needed lines of life. One particular thing he advised them, was that if it ever became necessary that they should buy farm products from other farmers, they should not stop to advise the other fellow, since it was ill - advise to offer advice to the farmer who had such articles for sale.

He came to the county when there were few schools and church edifices built, and was a leader in his neighborhood. along with such men as W. A. Mills, Hugh and John L. Farris, Alex Whiteside and other men who lived on Lick Creek at that time. They had to rebuild all over after the Civil War period, and they joined together and worked as one man, built what was known as the Whiteside schoolhouse and hired Prof. M. R. Abernathy, who had drifted into that particular community, to teach their children. He remained there until he came most thoroughly established as one of the best and foremost educators of the county.

When the Civil War came on Mr. Littlefield took the side of the Union, believing

that it was best not to dissolve former relatives with the government, which belief he maintained to his death. While he never took active stock in the Civil War, he was allied with the cause of the Union of the States. While not very active in politics, he was always active for his church preference, that of a Baptist, as he firmly believed his position tenable and right, hence firm in that belief.

His oldest son, Jas. L. Littlefield, is too well known to make further mention, that the fact, that he was one of the first men ever elected from the 15th civil district, a fact that he felt duly proud of and he held his place for three terms, each time being elected by an increased majority over his former term. He then became one of the leading merchants of Adamsville, where he remained in that line 33rd years without missing a day, when he sold out to his sons, who are still conducting the same line of work. He was twice elected to State offices by a joint session of the Tennessee Legislature, once as a member of the first Primary Election Board in 1909, and in 1923, as a member of the State Tax Equalization Board. Each of the above named positions were given him without his solicitations in the slightest, hence making him doubly proud of the compliment.

William P., the next older son, became a merchant at Adamsville many years ago, but finally moved to Shiloh Battlefield, and there in 1909, was a victim of a cyclone, which destroyed all, and where he lost his two oldest sons, they being killed, and all, his belongs blown away. His health was broken, yet he felt that he must educate his remaining children, which he has done admirably.

John, the third son, moved early to Texas, and now resides in Oklahoma, where he has also raised a large family, all of whom are making good.

George W., the fourth son, moved to Mississippi and engaged in the jewelers trade, and has made that line success.

Edward, the fifth son, moved west many years ago, where he became a real success farming and has become a stable character there.

C. A., the youngest son, was accidently killed in a railroad accident when he was just in the prime of life.

Mrs. L. R. Littlefield is still living having a real resident of McNairy county since 1850, rearing to womanhood and manhood 11 children, of whom 10 are still alive. She is reckoned among the very oldest citizens of the county. While born in Maury County, Tennessee, she has resided here for 74 years, having last August the living children, sixty - nine living grandchildren, 151 great -grand children and 20 great - great - grandchildren, making an unusual showing for the many living descendants. If She lives to August of this year will round out her 95th birthday. She is still healthy and promises to live many more years, to counsel her children, of which her oldest is now 75 years.

## **AUGUST 26, 1910**

### **C. A. Littlefield, of Adamsville, meets a tragic death**

Last Saturday Clarence A. Littlefield, of Adamsville, was run over and killed by a train and his body horribly mangled at or near Stafford, Texas. His remains were shipped here, arriving Monday night, and were immediately taken to Adamsville, where they were interred Tuesday.

He left his family consisting of his wife and seven children, at Adamsville about

two weeks ago, accepting a position on an orange farm in South Texas. No member of his family or any one here knows how he met his death only that he was killed by a locomotive, as stated in the certificate on the casket box. The inference is that he was stealing a ride.

Clarence was the youngest brother of the Littlefield boys. He had in the past been rather reckless and turbulent when drinking, and had been a source of much sorrow to his kindred. We do not know that any of this contributed to his untimely and tragic death, but probably did to his roving disposition. It is well known that he was a big hearted, industrious man while at his best. All regret his sad and untimely death.

He was about 40 years old, and the family he has left need the advice and assistance of friends.

**SEPTEMBER 2, 1910**  
**Correction as the Death of C. A. Littlefield**

In the meager account last week of the tragic death of Clarence Littlefield, we were mistaken as the facts as they have to us since. He was crossing in front of a freight engine standing still and escaping steam.

Just as he crossed and stopped on the main engine struck him, and mangled his body. W. R. Morgan, of Baldwyn, Miss. was with him at the time. He was sober and had been for several months. He had gone to Stafford on business and had started home when he was stricken down. The inference that he might have been stealing a ride was not true, and we regret that we did not have the facts before last issue and published them as they were.

**MARCH 24, 1924**

**ROSE HILL:** Mrs. Cordie Beard recently returned to her home in Birmingham, ALA., after a shory visit to relatives here. Henry Plunk and wife visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, recently.

**FINGER:** Miss Mary Helen Harris of Jackson spent last weekend with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hodges and son, attended the funeral service of Mrs. Hodges, mother, Mrs. Maxwell, Tuesday.

**RAMER:** Oda Teague, of Union, spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents here.

Mrs. Alva Derryberry, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Darby, at Selmer this week. Mrs. W. W. Wallace and children, Dottie and James, of Selmer, were guest of her sister, Mrs. R. N. Huggins Sunday. Mrs. J. W. Reeder and children were week - end visitors to her parent, J. V. Leatherwood and wife, of Wenasoga, who accompanied them home for a visit.

After spending three months in the home of A. B. Hamm, his brother, James R. Hamm and wife, have returned to their home in Mountain Veiw, Okla.. They have hosts of relatives and friends in McNairy, who hope they may visit again in the not distant future.

**GRAVEL HILL**

Ace Hewitt, who has been in Memphis for some time, is visiting his father, T. R. Hewitt.

Sexton McCoy, who has a position with the post - office department at Nashville, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. McCoy, of this place.

John Latta, of Louisiana, and sister, Mrs. Ella South, of Union City, are visiting relatives and friends in this community. L. D. and D. R. Latta were summoned to the bedside of their sister, Mrs. T. J. Sharp, of Corinth, Monday. Her condition is reported very serious.

Mrs. Jennie Lockman widow of the late W. H. Lockman, is visiting her sister - in - law, Mrs. Lizzie Lockman, who has been quite sick at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Andrew Gooch.

**Mrs. Jones Maxwell Dead :** We have learned with peculiar sorrow of the death of Mrs. Jones Maxwell, she dying recently at the home of her son, Bob Maxwell, in the third district. Mrs. Maxwell was a woman possessing many endearing traits of character. A long time, ago she came to Purdy with her husband and three children, Mary, Belle and Bob, and stayed there for the purpose of sending her children to school to M. R. Abernathy. Others came along from that section of the county and stayed in Purdy to get the advantages of the school. James Kirby and family, his wife and a son named Jack and Nannie, Lottie and Sudie, his daughters. And there came a fine young fellow named Perkins Kirby, called 'Perk' Kirby, and his brother, John Kirby, and sons of old Uncle " Poss" Kirby, and then George Maness. About the same time came W. T. Swain, J. D. Wilson, the Lipford boys, Charlie Plunk and a long line of others. Many of them have passed into the beyond, among that number being James Kirby and wife, Lettie, Sudie and Jack Kirby, and Perk Kirby, J. D. Wilson, Frank Lipford and Charlie Plunk. Mrs. Maxwell lived in Purdy during these years, and after leaving there went back to the old home this side of Masseyville, where she has resided for a greater, part of the time until her death. She never forgot these good old days and enjoyed the association of her old friends. She was happy in the service of others and loved by all who knew her.

She is survived by her three children, Mrs. Mary Hodges, Mrs. Belle Archer and Bob Maxwell. We express in this way our sadness over her death and sympathy for those who mourn her loss.

#### **PERSONAL MENTION**

P. Farris a prominent citizen of the 9th district was in Selmer, Saturday. He had been to see his, brother G. W. Farris, of Trenton, who is quite sick.

G. W. Farris, for many years a resident of this county and one of the leading merchants at Falcon many years ago, died this week at his home at Trenton after a long illness.

Mrs. Sallie Bobbitt has returned to her home in Humboldt after a visit of two weeks with relatives in town. Her son, Edison came down Wednesday, returning Friday.

D. P. Holland, a former McNairy old settler, son of W. C. Holland, deceased, now a substantial citizen of Dyer county, has been here several days. He paid us a pleasant visit while here. He lives over near Halls.

Ed Brown and wife will leave this week for Rawlings, Wyoming, where Mr. Brown has a responsible job with the railroad. They have been on a visit of two months with relatives in this and adjoining counties, spending a great deal of the time with the parents of Mrs. Brown, J. R. and Mrs. Swain.

**APRIL 4, 1924**



**SHILOH:** (This is not Shiloh in Hardin Co, but Shiloh community in the western part of the county.) Ester C. Taylor, who has been with his parents, Esq. and Mrs. F. J. Taylor, for the last two months left Sunday for Makands, ILL.

Mrs. Dewey Byrd is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whaley, of Middleton. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Prince and Mrs. Ed Bedford visiting their brother, Harm Kirk, of Brownfield, last week.

**MASSEYVILLE:** Mrs. Lotta Howell, of Memphis is attending the bedside of her mother, Mrs. Tom King. Buford Tull has gone back to Gideon, Mo. after spending two weeks with relatives and friends in and near Masseyville. Buford's sister is Mrs. George Mitchell.

Miss Rosetta, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wyatt, was buried at Mt. Gilead Sunday.

**SECOND DISTRICT:** Henry Crangle and Miss Lois Floyd were married last Tuesday evening at the home of Ernest Mitchell. After the ceremony the happy couple went to the home of the groom's mother, where a big supper awaited them. They will make their home with his mother.

A large crowd attended the funeral of Rossetta Wyatt at Mt. Gilead Sunday. Rev. Jordan conducted the funeral services. James Wallace and wife visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Huckabee, Saturday.

Billy Hardin spent one night last week with his grand - daughter Mrs. Willie Huckabee. Mr. Hardin is in his 80th year but with the aid of a walking stick he gets around like a young man.

**ROSE HILL: DEATH OF MRS. TAYLOR GAGE -** Mrs. Taylor Gage died Sunday evening, March 30, 1924 at her home 3 miles northeast of Bethel Spring in the 75th year of her life having been born in December 1851. She was the daughter of Joseph Tacker and was born and reared in the Rosehill community. In 1869 she was married to Taylor Gage, and 13 children were born, all of whom are living and are grown. They are, Jack, H. D. , C. R., W. A., Rude and Columbus, of the county, J. N. and B. H. Gage of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. R. A. Lipford of Finger, Mrs. J. L. Wilbanks, of Memphis and Mesdames W. T. Kerby, Frank Lipford and W. L. White, of the Rosehill community.

The deceased united with the church forty years ago, and throughout her life, lived a consistent life. Beside her husband and the many children who survive her, the deceased had also 88 grandchildren and 7 great - grand children.

Rev. Lee and Forsythe of Bethel Springs conducted the funeral service at the old Rose Hill church, and John R. Swain had charge of the music, assisted by Miss Etheridge. Deaton and Etheridge were the undertakers, and C. A. and Jim Lipford, Jude Cheshier, Earl Johnson and Troy and George Etheridge, were the pall bearers.

The remains of this good old mother were laid to rest in Rosehill cemetery on the afternoon of April 1, 1924, in the presence of a large crowd..

**PERSONALS:** Mrs. Manie Hurst and children, of Memphis, visited her mother, Mrs. Mollie Hinds. Mrs. L. V. Gooch and children spent Saturday and Sunday with brother, C. McGee .

After spending a week in the home of Mrs. C. F. McGee. Her sister, Miss Rossie Taylor has returned to school at Purdy. Mrs. Mabel Richard and children spent the week - end with her

father, W. A. Dunaway. Robert Simpson, of St. Louis, spent Sunday with homefolk. Mr. and Mrs. Lester Moore visited the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Graham.

## **BITS OF HISTORY**

### **Anderson Cox**

Away back yonder, when Tennessee was only 12 years of age, and 14 years before the establishment of McNairy county, there was born in a settlement in Western North Carolina, in the county of Randolph a child who, when grown up, came to this county and became one of the early settlers and substantial citizens. This was Anderson Cox, born in 1808. His parents died when he was but a child and he was bound out his master being Uncle Amer Davis, at that time one of the leading farmers of that county in North Carolina. He stayed with him a year after attaining his majority, that he might secure the covered horse, bridle and saddle. In the same neighborhood there lived another substantial farmer, his name being McGee. He had a daughter and her name was Rebecca.. Anderson Cox and Rebecca McGee were married in Randolph county, and the first child born of that union was a girl, whom they named Rozetta. When this girl was but an infant her parents started on the westward journey which has been made by so many thousands of North Carolinas during the more than 100 years in the past.

They reached their destination about 1830, locating a little north of the old stage road, on Snake Creek, in what is known as the Bolton Settlement, about where George Surratt lives. The forests had to be cleared and houses had to be built. Anderson Cox went about the great work ahead of him with spirit and determination. He stayed there only a short time and then went to the town of Adamsville setting what is called the A B Scott place, just east of the Baptist church. It was there that the mother of the writer of this article was born, in November, 1848, she being the youngest in the family. The other children were Rozetta, who married James Jones, and after James Surratt, two boys who died when they were little fellows, George, married Christiania Stanley, Frances who married Z. T. Tate, Terry B., who married Elizabeth Whiteside, Mary who married T. Wash Scott and Rachel, who married M. R. Abernathy.

After staying in Adamsville, where the subject of this sketch was engaged in merchandising with his son, he removed to the old home place, two miles north west of Adamsville, and there cleared the land and built one of the first homes in that section. He purchased the lands from a man named Hanks, and a certain ten acres from a man named Bomand, and that fields was ever known in the olden times as the Bomand field. He planted an orchard, set out trees, and in many ways beautified this county place to such an extent that it was one of most attractive in the settlement.

He was good farmer and a most progressive citizen. He gave liberally of his time and means to the support of the school and churches in that community, and his home was the gathering place frequently for the young people of that section. The schools in that day were known as Pleasant and Winding Ridge, and the churches by the same, with the additional name of Old Ebenezer. The old teachers in that day and who taught these schools were Professors Speed, Fitzgerald and Yancy. As was started in a recent article, M. R. Abernathy, a young teacher from Alabama, came to that community just, after the Civil War and taught. The old preachers were Rev. Frankie Beard, Washburn and Robert Young. Andrew Cox was greatly aided in all his efforts by his faithful wife, who shared with him the joys and sorrow of life, and helped him in

all ways to carry the burdens of cares and responsibilities. She had a sister, Rachel, who married one of the old settlers of the county, Laney Moore. This old home is now situated some miles west of Bethel Springs, and these families made frequent visit to one another, traveling the old stage road.

Among the old people who lived in the different neighborhoods and settlement where lived Anderson Cox were Jesse Merrel, Howell Sewell, Tom Combs, Mack Surratt, Bill Surratt, the Mortons, Gib Combs, Billy Rogers, Quimby Rogers, Maury Scott, Jim Scott, Billy Mills, Bob and Cal Wilson, Clem Carroll, John and Hugh Farris, Jimmie Wolverton, Wm. McFalls and Luther Littlefield, Glen Stanley, Tom Stanley, John Helbert, Jack Lindsay, Wm. Cleary, Carroll Haily, Tom Pearson, Uncle George Wilson, Palmer Pearson, Si Hardin, Levi Bathoon, Rev. Dancer, Neil Gilchrist, Buck Sanders, the Brackens, Uncle Jimmie H. Hooker and others.

Anderson Cox was reared by a Quaker in his North Carolina home, and while this may not have influenced him altogether, yet he was of a quite, reserved nature, possessing in a large degree native wit and humor. He was familiar with the Bible, and his great delight was in his daily reading of the Book. He was a Union man in war times, but his conduct during the whole of that terrible war was such that soldiers in both armies respected him. Before and right after the war he was as a visitor to Old Purdy, where he was well and favorably known on nearly all of his visits taking something from his farm to dispose of on the market there. It is said that in his day he was the greater producer of old - fashioned " Yellow Yam " potatoes of any farmer in the whole country. On an occasion of one of his visits to old Purdy the question of the character of ground best suited for raising potatoes came up. Some had said that poor land, and some rich land, would be better, J. M. Harris, and old friends, asked Mr. Cox about it, and he remarked that he had never seen anything that would not grow better on rich land than poor land. But then there were no specialists to advise and they just let " nature take its course".

Fifty years ago, in the south room of the old house, he gave up life's struggle and all that was mortal of him was laid to rest in the old graveyard at Adamsville. His devoted wife and helpmate survived him twenty years when, on a quiet day in 1893, just across the way from where she live so happily in the town of Adamsville in the latter forties and early fifties, she breathed her last. She was in the 86 years of her life and far removed from the scenes of their earlier days and their birth place in Old North Carolina these two good old people,

Anderson and Rebecca Cox, sleep side by side. Old friends of their younger days and maturer life, children and grandchildren, sleep their last in this same old burying ground. Descendants of both, here and elsewhere over this land, rejoice that there lived such characters in the history of this county.

The sole surviving member of this large and happy family is Mrs. Rachel Abernathy, who is spending the evening in her life in Selmer, where all of her children live, save two, Mrs. Florence Hockaday and Pearl Lett. She was married to M. R. Abernathy in 1868, and is the mother of eleven children, seven boys and four girls. George, in infant, died in Adamsville in 1883, and Wisdom, in Selmer in 1919.

**APRIL 11, 1924**

**NEW BETHEL:** Little Alpha Lee, of Jackson, is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and

Mrs. Bob McNatt. Louis Williams is in serious condition - while cutting timber a tree hit, brushing his head and chest. This community is sorry to loss Carl McGee, but wish him success in the west.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Duncan are the proud parents of a 10 pound boy, born April 2, 1924. Miss Bridie Lou Taylor is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. F. McGee.

**RAMER:** Mrs. Lester McAlpin left Monday to join her husband in Memphis where he has a position with the postoffice department. She was accompanied by Miss Mamie McAlpin who will spend some time with them.

**Mrs. Michael Dies:** Mrs. Susie Michael, wife of T. L. Michael, living east of Selmer, died at her home on April 3, 1924 and was buried in the old Prospect burying, ground the following day, Rev. Maxedon, preaching the funeral sermon. She is survived by her husband and four sons, Levi, Turner, Wiley, and Cube. This family has lived in the neighborhood for several years, removing here from Alabama about eight years ago. The deceased was 64 years of age.

#### **APRIL 18, 1924**

**DEATH OF G W FARRIS:** In the death of G. W. Farris, which occurred at the home in Trenton recently, another of the old citizen and business men of the county of years ago, passed away. The deceased was a native of the county, and for a long time was one of the big merchant's carrying on a general mercantile business at Falcon twenty - five years ago, and prospered there in business. Ill health overtook him, and for many years he has been a sufferer. He was a high - toned Christian citizen, and was admired by the many friends whom he left here in McNairy county. His wife and daughter survive him, and to them and other relatives who mourn his loss. The Independent speaks for those who know him here in expressing sympathy and condolence. He died in Trenton and was buried there.

**ROSE HILL:** Jasper Nolds and family, and Maylon Nolds and family, who were called to the bedside of their mother, Mrs. Jon. Nolds, have returned to their home in Arkansas.

Mrs. Jon. Nolds died last Thursday, and was buried at Rose Hill cemetery Friday afternoon, Rev. Lee, of Bethel Springs, performing the funeral who extend their sympathy to the bereaved family and children.

**SIXTH DISTRICT:** John Dunaway and wife spent Saturday with her father, Bob McNatt. Jim Taylor and wife spent part of last week with their daughter, Mrs. Carl McGee.

Alf Taylor and wife visited his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor Saturday night and Sunday. Mrs. Lester Moore visited her mother, Mrs. Belle Graham, last Saturday.

Miss Ethel and Nola Wolf were the Sunday guest of Miss Belle Simpson.

#### **APRIL 25, 1924**

**JOE BROOKS DEATH:** Joe Brooks, one of the oldest and best citizens of the county, died last week at the home near Michie. He was the brother - in - law of Mrs. N. A. Erwin of Selmer, having married her sister fifty - nine years ago. He was an old ex - Confederate soldier

and was in the bloody battle of Shiloh. He is survived by four children J. T. Brooks, Mrs. Nora Whitaker, Mrs. James Pratt and Tobe Whitaker. Elder S. Parham conducted the funeral service. The deceased was a member of the Christian church and had been for a great many years.

**RAMER:** Dr. and Mrs. Key and children, Merie and Frances, and Miss Laura Irwin, are attending the Southern railway surgeon's convention at Jacksonville, Fla. this week.

P. H. Shea and J. D. Dancer made a business trip to Nashville the first of the week.

**PERSONAL MENTIONS:** W. R. Wardlow, one of the good citizens of the 13th district, was in Selmer Saturday. Mr. Wardlow for years has taken the blue ribbon on raising fine water melons.

J. T. Gage was a visitor here recently. He recently suffered the loss of his wife, but is staying at the old home, where one of his daughter, Mrs. Willbanks, is making her home.

E. B. Kernodle and pretty little daughter, Lois and Carlos Hendrix of the 3rd district, were among the visitors to Selmer Saturday. Lois was accompanied by little Miss Ida Mae Adams of Blue Springs, Miss., who is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Grace Bridges in the 3rd district.

C. F. McGee and family left last week for western Texas, where they will reside, Mr. McGee is a member of one of the county's oldest and highly esteemed families, and his many friends in this vicinity wish him success in his new field of endeavor.

As we go to press the news comes that Mrs. J. R. Wesson, who has been sick for a long time, passed away Thursday at her home in Adamsville and burial will be in the Adamsville cemetery Friday afternoon.

Prof. Jas. T. Warren, president of the Hall Normal college at Martin, will deliver the class address to the graduating class of the Central High School in Selmer Friday night, May 2, at 7:45 o'clock, Prof. Warren is a fluent and practical speaker, and one of the leading educators of the State.

J. A. Wroten, the farmer who always has something to sell, after providing an abundance for his own household, was in Selmer recently. He brought to the bank and deposited 1350 nickles and 863 dimes from the change he had left over from purchase he had made during the last three years. All the 5 and 10 cents pieces he had left over getting back from town he gave to his children, Mr. Wroten is one of the best farmers in the county and is one of the kind that lives at home and boards in the kitchen.

(Note: Not sure this name is spelled right.)

It gives us much pleasure to state that another McNairian has gone from his native home and has made good in the world. Hugh Wallace, son of J. W. Wallace and wife, is visiting here this week, coming from his home in Shreveport, to spend a few days with his wife and other relatives. Mrs. Wallace is here attending her mother, Mrs. A. L. Smith, who has been sick for some times. Hugh is one of the most efficient postoffice inspectors in the country and is now stationed at Shreveport, where he has been for some time.

Will Wilder was a visitor to Selmer Friday night. For 37 years Mr. Wilder has been at the throttle of an M. & O. locomotives, and is one of the best men we ever knew. For many years he has been on the passenger engines on this division, and has hundreds of friends in every town through which he passes. The men who drive and fire locomotives throughout the land are as fine a set of men as ever lived, but the enginemen on the M. & O. and the Birmingham district of the Illinois Central are among the best in the world.

**MAY 2, 1924**

**McNAIRY:** Mrs. Joel Henry and daughter, Mary Lou, visited her sister, Mrs. Bob Wilson, who has been an invalid for two years.

**IN MEMORY OF ONE WHO HAS FALLEN ASLEEP - Little Cora Mae Kiser**

On last Friday evening about 2 o'clock the death angel stole from our community one of our most beloved little girls, Cora Mae Kiser, age 11 years 6 months and 29 days, has spent a short but beautiful sojourner in our midst. Her bright, beautiful smile and kind, loving ways won her many friends. She leaves a father and mother, four brothers and three sisters, and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her loss. To the loved ones we would say; you have the sympathy of many friends, but there is one greater than friends; lean on His strong arm for comfort; be reconciled to His will; live to meet little Cora, and in the end, " God shall wipe all tears away " Cecil A. Fesmire.

**BRAINE'S MILL:** Mrs. Gladys Massey and son of West Point, Miss, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keith, at the big mill. (Note: I have no idea where this is located. N Kennedy)

**DEATH OF J. M. BOONE:** The many friends of J. M. Boone in this county will learn in profound sorrow of his death, which occurred recently at his home in Corinth, Miss. Many years ago he came frequently to the county, being a most pleasant man. His practice was extensive, and all his time was given to the profession. He was district counsel for the Illinois central and Mobile & Ohio railroad, and an attorney for the Southern. Beside his general practice he gave attention to many other matters and was one of the foremost citizens of the state.

**FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT:** Last Sunday morning at the home of her father, D. M. Baker, Miss Lillie Baker sustained serious injury when she fell from the loft of the barn on the place. It is reported that she suffered greatly from the injury.

**ANOTHER OLD SOLDIER DEAD:** Benton Kendrick, one of the oldest citizens in the north part of the 10th district, died at his home early Sunday morning. April 27, 1924. He had been sick for some time.

The deceased was a strong and influential character and had spent his life in the community in which he died. He was a soldier in the army of the Confederacy, and some of his surviving comrades are J. R. Adams, J. R. Stovall, Robert Michie and Matt McKenzie. He married Fannie Anderson and to that union were born Jim and Emmett Kendrick, and Margaret, who married Will Garrison, Ida who married Rude East, and Dora, who married Reuben Cox, the latter dying many years ago at his home near Lawton. He was buried in the old Clear Creek burying grounds the place where so many of the old people in that section are buried.

**OLD NEWSPAPER MAN DEAD:** V. H. Morris, known to many of the people in Selmer, died at Helena, Ark., two weeks ago, after a protracted illness. Several years ago he worked on the Independent for Col. J. W. Purviance. His quiet and easy manner made for him many friends here, all of whom will learn with sorrow of his death. The death of Mr. Morris at Helena, recalls with sadness, the death of another of the newspaper fraternity, who was born and reared here, and learned the printing business here, and who also died in Helena. This was Charlie Clay Stone, a most splendid young man, whose remains were laid to rest in Oak Hill cemetery many years ago. He was the son of W. H. and Mrs. Stone.

**PROMINENT CITIZEN DEAD:** As we go to press, we hear with much sorrow of the death of J. A. Weatherford, which occurred at his home in the 13th district last night, May 1, 1924. Mr. Weatherford was one of the most prominent and useful men in his section, and his taking away will be keenly felt by many people whom he had comforted and helped. At all times he stood for a better order of things, was for churches, schools and all public improvements. By strict attention to business, he had accumulated considerable property, and was a big merchant and landowner in the county. He is survived by his wife and several children and other relatives.

#### **MAY 9, 1924**

**ACCIDENT PROVES FATAL:** The entire community was shocked Saturday, April 26, when they learned of the accident which Miss Lillie Baker had suffered. She was carried to Corinth and on to Memphis to the Baptist Memorial Hospital. Our people hoped that medical skill and careful nursing would restore her, but while she seemed to rally somewhat after a day or two, a change came, and it was realized that she was beyond recovery. The end came Sunday evening. She met death bravely and calmly, expressing to her brother her faith and readiness to go. She was the only one of the children of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Baker left in their home, and a devoted helpful daughter, doing all in her power to shift the burdens and cares in the home from their aged shoulders and place them upon her own.

The funeral services in Bethesda church were conducted by Rev. Forsythe and Ralston.

**RAMER:** Mrs. Arthur Wardlow and daughter, Miss Elizabeth, of Middleton were guest in the home of S. K. Fowlkes while enroute from Selmer where Miss Elizabeth graduated from Central High School.

J. V. Leatherwood of Wenasoga, is the guest of his daughter, Mrs. J. W. Reeder. It is very gratifying to Mr. Leatherwood's friends to know that his health is greatly improved.

Mrs. D. T. Smith of Selmer was visiting her sister, Mrs. J. H. Hill, who was sick a few days the latter part of the week.

Mrs. L. G. Huggins and sons, Paul and Phillip, and sister, Miss Thelda Carman of Alexandria, LA. arrived last week for a month's visit. They are guest of their father, T. O. Carman, at Tuscumbia, Ala., this week.

**GRAVEL HILL - J. A. Weatherford** - In the death of J. A. Weatherford, which occurred at his home in the 13th district, the morning of May 2, 1924 the county lost a good man and useful citizen. He was forty years of age, and by preserving effort, courage, and native ability had made a success in a business way. He was a big merchant, a large land owner, and was interested in many enterprises.

Beside he found time to devote to the schools, church, roads and other improvements that made for the betterment of the county. He was a public - spirited citizen and was in the forefront in all movements to make the county's condition better. The efforts of his, and those of W. E. McLeod, also deceased had a great deal to do in the development of those sections of the county in which they lived.

Mr. Weatherford occupied positions of honor and trust, having been elected by the people to fill various positions, at the time of his death being one of the justices of the peace in his district.

He leaves surviving him his wife and twelve children, besides an aged mother. His remains were laid to rest in the old burying grounds at Gravel Hill Saturday afternoon, and his funeral was preached in the old church by Rev. Hardwick. A crowd that taxed the capacity of the church attended, W. K. and Terry Abernathy, by request of members of the family, spoke briefly of the deceased as a citizen.

**Death of Gibbs child:** Last Thursday night, May 1, 1924, in a happy home on Pharr Avenue, the grim reaper came, and took from Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gibbs an infant, a little boy, and left the home sad and lonely, and without the smile and sunshine of the little child. The undertaker came, and burial plans were made. On Saturday morning the funeral party went its way to the scenes of other days. In a little grave, in the old neighborhood and family cemetery at Morris Chapel, the remains of the little child were laid to rest.

NOTE: THE NEWSPAPER ABSTRACTS WERE TAKEN FROM THE WORKS OF BARBARA GUEST WHO CAME TO MCNAIRY COUNTY IN HER MIDDLE AGE AND LOVED HISTORY. BARBARA DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. WE APPRECIATE THE DOCUMENTS SHE LEFT FOR US.

### Gravel Hill

McNairy County, Tennessee

Democratic Voters in the August 5, 1954 Election

Officer: Roy Huggins

Registrars: Andy Huggins, Lex Armstrong

Election Judges: Alvin Huggins, George Mullins, Claude Springer

Clerks: Billy T. Armstrong, Grace Jaggars

Acres, Hubert  
 Adae, Lula  
 Armstrong, Lex Mrs  
 Armstrong, Blanche  
 Armstrong, V E  
 Armstrong, Billy  
 Armstrong, Dewey  
 Armstrong, Lex  
 Bell, C B  
 Bell, Coly  
 Bell, Coly Mrs  
 Blasingame, Vester  
 Bolding, J E  
 Bolding, Minnie  
 Bowen, Ruth  
 Burns, Lester  
 Burns, C H Mrs  
 Burns, Charlie  
 Burns, Polly  
 Burress, Mollie Bet

Capooth, Edgar  
 Capooth, Prentiss  
 Capooth, Paul  
 Childs, G W  
 Coln, Thomas J  
 Coln, Pauline  
 Cooksey, Anderson  
 Cooksey, Hazel  
 Crawford, Elmo  
 Curtis, Jessie  
 Curtis, Ola Dee  
 Dicks, J C Mrs  
 Dicks, J C  
 Durbin, Mabel  
 Durbin, Claud Mrs  
 Faulkner, Mary Lou  
 Fuller, Buel  
 Fullwood, Max  
 Gray, Audrey  
 Griffin, George Mrs

Griffin, George  
 Hamm, Andy  
 Hamm, Andy Mrs  
 Hamm, B H Mrs  
 Hamm, B H  
 Hamm, Jennie  
 Hendrix, Elizabeth  
 Hendrix, Morphis  
 Hewitt, David  
 Hewitt, R B  
 Honeycutt, Lawrence  
 Hudson, Ara  
 Huggins, Gladys  
 Huggins, Roy  
 Huggins, Alvis  
 Jackson, A H  
 Jaggars, Grace  
 Jaggars, W W  
 Knight, Alec  
 Latta, J H Mrs



Latta, J H  
Leonhard, Fred Mrs.  
Leonhard, Fred  
Lipford, Taylor  
Littlejohn, W M  
Littlejohn, Stanton  
Mathis, Dewitt  
McComack, Lucille  
McCormack, Emmitt  
McCormack, Frances  
McCormack, James  
McCoy, Allen  
McCoy, Allen Mrs  
McCoy, Maggie  
McCoy, Harlan Mrs  
McCoy, J W  
McCoy, Harlan  
Moore, Rob  
Mott, H L  
Mullens, G C  
Nichols, Azalee  
Norris, Della M  
Norris, R F  
North, J F  
Pearson, Lowell  
Pearson, Nell  
Petty, George  
Phelps, J W  
Prather, Arbie  
Prather, Raymond  
Prince, J C  
Randolph, W W  
Randolph, Roxie  
Richards, E F  
Richards, E F Mrs  
Samples, Kate  
Samples, Tulon  
Seay, Roy Mrs  
Seay, Roy  
Sharp, D R Mrs  
Sharp, D R  
Sims, John Henry  
Sims, H E  
Sims, Leola  
Sims, J T  
Smith, Hubert Mrs  
Smith, Clarence  
Smith, Hubert

Smith, L T

Smothers, J O  
Spence, Erlene  
Spence, Hugh  
Springer, Vonley Mrs  
Springer, Claude  
Springer, Mollie  
Springer, Vonley  
Summers, Will  
Summers, Will Mrs  
Sutton, Lester  
Sutton, Willie  
Teague, Alton  
Teague, Irene  
Teague, Marvin  
Teague, Marvin Mrs  
Wardlow, Lizzie  
Wardlow, Leonard  
Washburn, John L  
Washburn, John P Mrs

Washburn, Arbie  
 Washburn, Alma  
 Washburn, Sam C  
 Watts, T M  
 Weeks, Cord Mrs  
 Whirley, J A  
 White, Hattie  
 White, Claudie  
 Whitemore, Bonnie  
 Willis, Robert A  
 Woods, Warner  
 Wren, Lois  
 Young, Mack M  
 Young, Mack Mrs

**SOME VERY EARLY SCHOOL RECORDS.  
 MOSTLY DISTRICT 20 BEGINNING 1842**

**All of these records were found in the McNairy County Archives. Courthouse, Selmer,  
 Tennessee, Nancy Kennedy, Director  
 Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy**

Some of the names were very unreadable, so I have spelled them the best I could. The names are spelled the same as written 163 years ago. In 1842, McNairy County being less than twenty years old and still thinly settled, there wasn't many schools. These first reports cover Common School District Number 20. According to Marcus J Wright, in the early days some children had to travel up to ten miles to attend school; therefore the family names mentioned in the following lists may live quite a distance from Purdy. It was indeed a privilege for children to attend school in the pioneer days of McNairy County. Nancy Wardlow Kennedy, May 1, 2005.

From the list of names this school district was around Purdy.  
 This is the school age children of each household

1842 - 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

First page of **1842** missing.

Sarah McCann	4	Robert Burney	7
Kenneth McKaskill	2	Hardridge Walker	2
John McCann	1	John Beaty	1

Total 90

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 1842.

Signed: A M Brown, DC; John Plunk, Treasurer; Matthew Gage, Chairman.

Common School report for the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County, July 1, 1842.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Common school taught six months
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of children taught in said district: fifty one.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The number of scholastic population: ninety
- 4<sup>th</sup> The amount of public money received: thirty dollars
- 5<sup>th</sup> The money received paid to teacher
- 6<sup>th</sup> By subscription to teacher: fifty dollars.

The whole amount of public monies received by the commissioners thirty dollars. By subscription fifty dollars. Paid to teacher eighty dollars. David Carson, Teacher  
Commissions: A M Brown, DC; John Plunk, Tr; Matthew Gage, Ch.

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1843 - 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

A M Brown, John Plunk and Matthew Gage, common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County. By the removal of Matthew Gage out of said district, A M Brown and John Plunk proceeded to fill the vacancy by appointing Joseph Walker June 1843. A M Brown resigned. John Plunk and Joseph Walker proceeded to fill the vacancy by appointing Daniel Hill June 1843. After being qualified as the law directs, Joseph Walker was elected clerk of the district, John Plunk treasurer and Daniel Hill chairman.

We the commissions of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows, to wit:

Joseph Walker	3	George Plunk	6
Elijah Hill	9	John Plunk	6
Seborn Tacker	1	Samuel Houston	2
George Rankin	1	A M Brown	6
Joel McCann	2	Sarah McCann	4
John Bell	3	William Jones	6
Abraham Hill	8	B H Beauchamp	5
R B Burney	7	Benjamin Walker	3
Thos Brown	3	John Beaty	1
Henny Reece	4	J G Farris	1
George Bullner	1	John Moore	4
John Darhety	2	Total	88

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September 1843.

Signed: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Treasurer; Daniel Hill, Chairman.

Common School report for the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County, July 1, 1843.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Common school taught six months
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of children taught in said district: fifty.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> The number of scholastic population: eighty eight
  - 4<sup>th</sup> The amount of public money received: thirty six dollars and 12 ½ cents
  - 5<sup>th</sup> The money received paid to teacher
  - 6<sup>th</sup> By subscription to teacher: fifty nine dollars and 87 ½ cents.
- The whole amount of public monies received by the commissioners thirty six dollars and 12 ½ cents. By subscription fifty nine dollars and 87 ½ cents. Paid to teacher ninety six dollars.
- Joseph Walker, Teacher  
 Commissions: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Tr; Daniel, CH
- 

1844 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Plunk, Daniel (Hill) and Joseph Walker were elected common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County on the first Saturday in June 1844. Joseph Walker was elected clerk. John Plunk treasurer and Daniel Hill chairman.

We the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows:

Joseph Walker	3	A M Brown, Esq	7
John Bell	3	John Beaty	1
David Hutcherson	5	Nicholas Beauchamp	5
William Jones	6	Sarah McCann	3
Henny Reece	4	Joel McCann	3
Thos Brown	3	A K Smallwood	3
H B McMahan	5	John Hasting	2
Sebron Tacker	1	Daniel Hill	1
John Plunk	6	Elijah Hill	10
John Daughtery	3	Samuel Houston	2
Abraham Hill	7	Benjamin Walker	2
James Maxwell	1	R B Burney	7
T H Bell	6	Total	110

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 31st day of September 1844.  
 Signed: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Treasurer; Daniel Hill, Chairman.

Common School report for the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County, July 1, 1844.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Common school taught four months
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of children taught in said district: forty five
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> The number of scholastic population: one hundred and ten
  - 4<sup>th</sup> The amount of public money received: forty one dollars and 88 cents. Paid to teacher one dollar for record book and 88 cents remaining in the hand of the TR.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> The whole amount of money received by the commissioners in said district forty one dollars and 88 cents. Paid to teacher forty dollars. A M Brown teacher.
- Commissions: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Tr; Daniel, CH
-

1845 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Plunk, Daniel Hill and Joseph Walker common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be follows to wit August 1845

Benjamin Walker	2	Joseph Walker	2
Nicholas Beauchamp	5	Guilford Huley	1
A R Smallwood	2	William Jones	7
B H Beauchamp	4	Abraham Hill	7
Sarah McCann	3	Henny Rey (Reece)	4
William Whorton	1	James Maneville	1
Elijah Hill	7	R B Burney	8
Mathew Gage	5	Seaborn Tacker	1
Joseph O Tacker	1	U E Barney	1
Daniel Hill	1	Samuel Houston	2
Joel McCann	3	John Plunk	6
George Plunk	6	George Bullner	1
John Beaty	1	James Vititoe	1
A M Brown	8	A P Gage	1
John Kerby	1	Total	93

Returned to the clerk of the county Court on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August 1845.  
Signed: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Treasurer; Daniel Hill, Chairman.

Common School report for the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County, July 1, 1844.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. Common school taught three months
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of children taught in said district: fifty
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The number of scholastic population: ninety three
- 4<sup>th</sup> The amount of public money received: forty one dollars and 07 cents and the 87 cents that remained in the hands of the treasurer and an extra amount of 6 cents paid by said treasurer.
- 5<sup>th</sup> The whole amount of money received by the commissioners in said district forty one dollars and 94 cents and 6 cents paid by the treasurer John Plunk.
- 6<sup>th</sup>. Paid to teacher forty five dollars. L B Holbert teacher.  
Commissions: Joseph Walker, DC; John Plunk, Tr; Daniel, CH

1846 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker and William Walker were elected common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County on the first Saturday in June 1846; after being qualified as the law directs, John Plunk was elected clerk, Joseph O Tacker treasurer and William Walker chairman. We the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district proceed to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows: to wit:

A M Brown	7	George Plunk	7
James Vititoe	1	A P Gage	1

Sam Houston	1	John McCann	3
Elijah Hill	8	Adlai S Morrison	3
Sary McCann	4	Seaborn Tacker	1
Arthur Harris	4	Samson Brown	4
Daniel Hill	1	Joseph O Tacker	2
John Beaty	2	John Bell	3
William Whorton	1	U E Barnes	1
A B Hill	6	Hardin Walker	8
B J Walker	2		

THE REST OF THIS YEAR IS MISSING (1846)

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1847 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

FIRST PAGE OF 1847 MISSING

William Whorton	2	Henny Reece	4
John Doolin (Dougherty ?)	3	J C Hill	2
Frances McCalip	6	– Stackens	2
Elisha S Plunk	1	Total	90

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 1847.

John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker, Hardridge Walker.

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1848 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker and Hardridge Walker were elected common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County on the first Saturday in June 1848; after being qualified as the law directs, John Plunk was elected clerk, Joseph O Tacker treasurer and Hardridge Walker chairman. We the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district proceed to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows: to wit:

John Plunk	5	James Vititoe	2
Elijah Hill	6	A B Hill	7
John Mecon	4	A M Brown	8
Joseph O Tacker	1	Rubin Dunn	1
Daniel Hill	1	Adalis Morrison	4
John C Wilson	4	James Kimbers	5
Sary F McCalip	5	Seaborn Tacker	1
Elizabeth Barns	1	J A Plunk	1
George Bullner	1	Henny Reas (Reece)	4
William Whorton	2	Samuel Houston	5
Benjamin Walker	2	Hard Walker	3
James Wilson	5	A A Wilson	1
Richard Ray	1	Isaac McCullar	1
Miles Lowrance	1	John Hawkens	1
		Total	86

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the eighth of September 1848.  
John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker, Hardridge Walker

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#### 1849 - 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker and Hardrige Walker common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district proceed to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows: to wit:

John Plunk	6	John McCann	4
Adlai Morrison	5	James Vititoe	2
George Bulliner	1	Miss Sperlin	2
D M Brown	7	Elijah Hill	6
A B Hill	6	Daniel Hill	1
John C Wilson	4	James Wilson	4
Benjamin Walker	1	Hard Walker	3
— Whorton	2	Heney Reese	3
Sary McCann	4	Joseph O Tacker	3
Francis McCalip	5	James Kimbro	3
Ruben Donnell	2	John McCann	3
Wm Ross	1	Moses McCann	1
Felix Cross	1	George Durring	1 (Bulliner ?)
Wm F Sanders	1	Elizabeth Barnes	1
		Total	84

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 27 of July 1849.  
John Plunk, Joseph O Tacker, Hardridge Walker

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#### 1850 52<sup>ND</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transferred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 1850 to the 52<sup>nd</sup> district the following scholastic scholars and bounds commencing at the McMahan place thence to Alexander Plunk's; thence to Samuel Houston's; thence to the north east corner of Brown's field to the Jackson Road, leaving Brown to the 20<sup>th</sup> district. Names and number that are transferred:

John Plunk	4	John McCann	5
Thomas McCann	2	George Bulliner	2
Jas Vititoe	3	Jas Wilson	5
A A Wilson	1	Mary Ann Highfield	1
		Total	23

By Joseph O Tacker and Marcus A Morrison

Common School report for the 20<sup>th</sup> District of McNairy County, October 10, 1850:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Common school taught 47 days
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The number of children taught in school district (Didn't say)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The number of scholastic population : seventy

4<sup>th</sup> The amount of public money paid for tuition twenty nine dollars and 37 cents.  
 S B Rees Teacher  
 Commissioners: M A Morrison, James Wilson, Joseph O Tacker

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1850 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

James Wilson, Joseph O Tacker and Marcus A Morrison were elected common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County the third Saturday in June 1850. After being qualified as the law directs, Marcus A Morrison was elected Clerk.

We the commissions of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district proceeded to appoint James Wilson to draw 9 dollars that was due said district for the purpose of paying for 6 acres of land for the district school. We meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July for the purpose of paying over the money and received the rite to said land. We paid 9 dollars of the district money and 1 dollar and 60 cents of individual money and received the deed for the 6 acres of land that was purchased by the former commissioners of WM Whorton for the district school house.

We the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows, to wit:

John Plunk	4	<del>Hannah Rose</del>	<del>2</del>
John C Wilson	5	Sarah F McCalip	4
James Kimbro	4	Charles Runnels	2
Elizabeth Barnes	1	Daniel Hill	1
Reuben Donnell	2	Joseph O Tacker	4
Sarah McCann	3	<del>Thomas Bell</del>	<del>6</del>
Henrietta Rees	4	John McCann	5
Adlair S Morrison	5	Hardridge Walker	4
James Wilson	5	WM Whorton	2
<del>Jacob Mertine ?</del>	<del>1</del>	A A Wilson	1
John Hill	1	Benjamin Walker	1
Wm F Sanders	2	Eligah Hill	6
Thomas Hawkins	1	Mary Ann Highfield	1
Thomas McCann	2	Washington Roggers	1
George Bulliner	2	James Vitioe	3
Abraham Hill	6	A M Brown	7
William Ross	1	Isaac McCuller	1
Moses McCann	1	A R McCalip	<u>1</u>
		Total	93
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> assigned to the 52 <sup>nd</sup> district			<u>23</u>
			70

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 1850.  
 Commissioners: Marcus A Morrison, DC, Jas Wilson, Chair, Joseph O Tacker, TR



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1851 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

Joseph O Tacker, A M Brown and John D Page common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district of McNairy County proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district for the year 1851 and found it to be as follows, to wit:

Adali S Morrison	4	Elijah Hill	6
Samuel Viers	3 ?	John Daughtery	1
Reuben Donnell	2	Daniel Hill	1
Elizabeth Barns	1	Abraham Hill	6
Hannah Rose	3	Sarah McCann	1
James Kimbro	4	John C Wilson	5
Charles Runnels	3	<del>Thomas H Bell</del>	<del>8</del>
John D Page	4	Joseph O Tacker	4
William Wharton	2	William Sanders	2
William Houston	1	Moses McCann	2
H Walker, Esq	4	A M Brown	7
John Plunk	4	George Bulliner	3
James Vititoe	3	Miles Plunk	3
I W Henry	1	Thomas McCann	2
		Total	82

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 1851.  
Commissioners: Marcus A Morrison, DC, Joseph O Tacker, John D Page

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1852 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

John D Page, Joseph O Tacker and Daniel Hill were elected common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County the second Saturday in June 1852. After being qualified as the law directs we the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows, to wit:

George Bulliner	5	John Plunk	3
Miles Plunk	4	Mary Holsterd	3
Daniel Hill	1	Reuben Donnell	2
John Daughterty	1	Elizabeth Barns	1
Joseph O Tacker	4	William Huston	1
Wm H Tacker	6	Elijah Hill	6
Hannah Rose	3	John W Henry	2
Abraham Hill	6	William Horton	3
James Vititoe	4	A M Brown	8
Hardridge Walker	5	Benjamin Walker	2
Moses McCann	2	William Sanders	2

John D Page	4	Total	81
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Returned to the County Court clerk on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 1852.  
Commissioners John D Page, Joseph O Tacker, Daniel Hill.

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**1853 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT**

John D Page, Joseph O Tacker, and Daniel Hill common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district of McNairy County proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district for the year 1853 and found it to be as follows, to wit:

A M Brown	8	Hardridge Walker	5
Benjamin Walker	1	William Sanders	3
James McCann	1	William Houston	1
William Whorton	3	Abraham Hill	7
Wm L Tacker	6	John D Page	4
Joseph D Tacker	4	Elizabeth Barnes	1
Daniel Hill	1	Reuben Donnell	3
John Daughtery	1	Elijah Hill	7
James W Leath	6	John Plunk	3
George Bulliner	4	Miles Plunk	3
James Vititoe	4	Hannah Rose	3
Jacob Treece	4	John McCl—	5
Ellick Plunk	1	Ezekiel Stark	6
Moses McCann	2	Daniel A Hill	1
James Hill	1	Total	89

Returned to the County Court clerk on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1853.  
Commissioners Joseph O Tacker, Daniel Hill, Jr

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**1854 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT**

June 1854. Hardridge Walker, Joseph O Tacker and John Plunk were elected common school commissioners in the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County in June 1854, after being qualified proceeded to take the colasstic (the way it was spelled - really a lot the way it sounds) population and found it to be as follows: to wit:

Hardridge Walker	5	M D Grisham	5
John Sanders	1	James McCann	1
Benjamin Walker	2	Moses McCann	2
Hannah Rose	3	Abraham Hill	6
Wm Whorton	3	James Hill	1
A M Brown	8	A P Gage	1
James Vititoe	4	John Plunk	3

Miles Plunk	4	J A Plunk (?)	3
George Bulliner	4	Moses Wood	4
John Daughtery	1	Eligah Hill	6
Frank Bell	3	J P Sipes	1
Wm Ray	2	G C Simon	5
Reuben Donnell	3	Elizabeth Barns	1
Joseph O Tacker	5	L M Tacker	1
George McCann	1	Total	88

Returned to the County Court clerk on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 1854.  
Commissioners: Hardrige Walker, Joseph O Tacker, John Plunk

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#### 1855 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hardridge Walker, Jos A Tacker, and John Plunk common school commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> school district proceeded to take the colastic population in 1855 and found it to be as follows to wit:

Hardridge Walker	1	Abraham Hill	5
James Hill	2	Hannah Rose	3
Wm Wharton	3	Moses McCann	3
George McDonnel	4	Mary Hawestid	2
Jane Cofman	1	George Cullinger	5
James Vititoe	5	C C Simmons	3
Moses Wood	4	J A Plunk	4
John Plunk	3	Miles Plunk	1
Frank Bell	3	John Daughtery	1
George Simmons	2	Eligah Hill	5
James Simmons	2	Reuben Donnell	3
Elisabeth Barns	1	Jos A Tacker	5
A M Brown	6	Frances Gage	1
		Total	56

Returned to the County Court clerk on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1855.  
Commissioners: Hardrige Walker, Joseph O Tacker, John Plunk

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#### 1856 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

A M Brown, George Bulliner and Elijah Hill were elected common school commissioners in the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County on the first Saturday of June 1856, after being qualified proceeded to take the scholastic population and found it to be as follows: to wit:

Abraham Hill	4	Hilly Walker	3
Joseph O Tacker	6	Reuben Donnell	4
F. Bell	4	Luke Ward	4
Seaborn Tacker	1	G C Simmons	4

Moses Wood	4	Elijah Hill	4
M -? McCann	3	Jacob Treece	4
William Whorton	3	William Ross	4
H Walker	6	George P McCann	1
A M Brown	7	Hannah Rose	2
William F Sanders	4	George Bulliner	6
Richard Piggott	5	Demps ? McClure	1
J A Plunk	3		

SECOND PAGE IS MISSING

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1857 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 1857. We the commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> common school district of McNairy County proceeded to take the scholastic population of said district and found it to be as follows:

Wm F Sanders	4	Moses Wood	5
Abraham Hill	4	James Hill	3
Hardage Walker, Esq	7	Partheney Hendrix	2
F Bell	4	A M Brown	6
Moses McCann	3	Hannah Rose	2
Joseph O Tacker	6	Elijah Hill	3
Seborn Tacker	1	George Bulliner	6
George McDonnell	4	John Plunk	4
John Piggott	5	George C Simmons	5
John Daughtery	2	Luke Ward	5
Adley S Morison	4	Heram Ray	2
Joseph A Plunk	2	Thomas McCann	1
Reuben Donnell	4	total	101

Returned to the County Court Clerk, August 6, 1857.

A M Brown, George Buliner, Elijah Hill, Commissioners of the 20<sup>th</sup> School district.

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1858 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 1858 George Bulliner, A S Morrison and A M Brown were elected common school commissioners in the 20<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County on the 2nd Saturday of June 1858, after being qualified proceeded to take the scholastic population and found it to be as follows: to wit

George Buliner	6	G C Simmons	4
Luke Ward	1	J O Tacker	6
Reuben Donnell	4	George McDonnell	4
A S Morrison	5	Hannah Rose	3
John Plunk	2	J A Plunk	2

Hiram Ray	2	Eliza Fowler	2
Richard Piggott	4	P P Massey	3
A P Gage	3	A M Brown	6
		Total	72

Returned to the County Court clerk, July 5, 1858.  
Commissioners G Buliner, A S Morrison, A M Brown

1859 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

1859 Sleastic pouplathon contends:

George Bulliner	7	Elizabeth Dorset	2 *2
J O Talker (Tacker)	6	Luke Ward	4
Poley McCan (Polly)	4 *1	M Rose	1
M Rose	1	James Vititoe	7 *4
Miles Plunke	1	John Plunke	2
A P Gage	2	A A Plunke	2
George McCedonnel	4 * 3	Pinkiny Masee	3
Reben Donel	4	John Pilket (Piggott)	4
Richard Pilket (Piggott)	4	A M Brown	6
A S Morrison	5	Total	72

\* 1 - Mary in next year

\* 2 - Dougherty (misspelled in 1860 too. She may be the widow of John Dougherty  
As he is not listed anymore and is not in the 1860 census.

\*3 - McDonnel (misspelled in 1860 too.)

\*4 - this name has been spelled many ways, even in the census, they left by 1880

(Note: this man couldn't write and he couldn't spell. I put the exact spelling so you can see some of the ways they spelled the names. The first ones had excellent penmanship. This is the reason we have so many corruptions or variations of names. Census takers, government officials and even school teachers could not always spell names and people that were illiterate learned to spell it the wrong way. )

Returned to the County Court Clarke (Clerk) July 1859

Commissioners: George Bulliner, A S Moreson, A M Brown

A school tate (I think he means taught) by Wurhenton (Washington) Wilson 41 days for 41 dollars this 1859

1860 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 1860. G C Simmons, J A Plunke and P P Massey was elected common school commissioners of the 20 colde distrate of Mcneary county the 2 saderday in June 1860 and after beinge qualifide as the law directs proceede to take the scholastic popuation and found it to beas folers to wit:

James Vititore	6	J A Plinke	3
John Plink	4	Miles Plunke	2
George Bulinger	6	John Pigote	6
Richard Pigotte	6	Luke Warde	4
Morey Mcan	5	Joseph O Tacker	6
Elisabeth Dorety	3	M M Rose	1
George Mcdanel	4	G C Simons	3
A A Emerson	1	Pansey Bronse (Brown)	4
P P Massey	3	Total	66

Returned to the county courte clearke in Sexember in 1860.

Commissioners: J A Plunk, P P Massey

1861 20<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

FIRST PAGE OF 1861 MISSING.

Returnde to the countey courte clerke the colesticke population 50 by J A Plunk, P P Massey.

(Note: The only way the writer of this document got population right is some one inserted the missing letters.)

Scol tote (taught) in 1861 by Monro Gray. 1 ½ monte at \$25 pur monte. \$27.50

Some date (?) By A N Mccalyre 17 days \$23.75

1871 60 SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 1, 1871. William Henry and John Ray common school commissioners of the 60th school district of McNairy County procedeed to take the scholastic population of sd district and found it to be as follers to wit:

W S Plunk	2	J H Leepford	2
M E Plunk	1	R Baugham	3
Sarah Nance	5	J A Plunk	4
John Plunk	2	John Ray	5
Arch McDonnel	3	John Case	4
Sarah King	2	James Yarbrough	1
Joseph O Tacker	1	William Henry	2
Eligah Stark	1	total amount	38

Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 31th July 1871.

John Ray, DC (district clerk ?) ; William Henry CTR (chairman and treasurer ?)

1872 - 60<sup>TH</sup> SCHOOL DISTRICT

1872. William Henry and John Ray common school commissioners of the 60<sup>th</sup> dis the scholastic population of the 60<sup>th</sup> school district:

William Reed	4	John Beaty	1
John Ray	5	J A Plunk	4
W S Plunk	2	M C Plunk	1
J H Leepford	3	John Case	3
Joseph O Tacker	1	James Yurbrough	1
Elizabeth Stark	1	William Henry	1
John Plunk	2	George Vititoe	1
		Total	30

John Ray and William Henry commissioners. Returned to the Clerk of the County Court on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 1872.

**WRITTEN REPORT OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT  
TO THE COUNTY COURT OF MCNAIRY COUNTY, 1881**

:

Sirs: I have the honor submitting to your honorable body my first annual report as required by the School Law of 1873. It is by no means perfect, nor what we desired it to be, but it is the best we have been able to gather from the reports made to us by School Directors and Teachers.

In our efforts to advance the educational interests of the county, we have labored under several dis-advantages, some of which, we feel disposed to mention in detail.

First, we have entirely too many districts and directors. Our statistical statement shows 87 districts and 261 directors. The director is an important factor in our educational system and cannot with impunity be dispensed with, but there is such a thing as over-doing a good thing and this we certainly have done in this county in the way of making school districts. Just think for a moment of the finance of the county controlled by 261 men, the majority of whom were in no way capacitated to do such. What would be the results of bankruptcy inside of three years. This pretty fairly illustrates the present condition of school affairs in this county

A great many of these directors come to town every First Monday to swap horses and frame some foolish question to ask the Supt and charge the county or school fund for the day's work. The directors are in fact the disbursers of the school fund trustees. Homs (?) report to me for 79 shows, I think, a little more than \$5000 paid to district clerks. The amount was so great that it was left out of this report - thinking it to be a mistake.

The Trustee, Supt and Chairman of the Court may all be convinced of recklessness in the use of school money but they are powerless. They cannot lawfully interfere, hence the only possible remedy that can be applied is to have fewer directors and better ones. Let the School Districts be the same as the Civil with three directors for each, thus placing the management of the funds in the hands of 51 men instead of 261. This number could be judiciously selected and grand men could be found to fill the places. As it is known, the sheriff cannot lawfully hold election in all the school districts. I beg you gentlemen to give this matter a ---- careful consideration.

Second: the want of suitable buildings in which to have the schools taught is another very serious difficulty in the way of educational progress. During the year I have visited and inspected about 50 school houses in 40 of which school was kept at the time of visit. Fifteen of this

number might be said to be in good condition, ten possible, and the remainder utterly unfit for anything. Some of these were deserted tenant houses in the middle of an old field, a half a mile from shade or water. This is by no means an exaggeration but a solemn fact. No man or lady can teach a profitable school in such a house. The truth is no teacher who understands himself and his business will undertake it - hence such districts are obliged to take the proven class of teachers. Now in view of these facts and for the sake of the interest I know you feel in the education of your children, I beg your faithful, earnest cooperation in my endeavors to improve the school houseS of our county.

Not withstanding these difficulties however, we have reasons to hope and believe that we have made reasonable progress and laid the foundation for better things in the future. I have blundered many times but have done the best I could and I indulge the hope that the Court and County will drop the mantle of charity over whatever may have sense to — a mistake and look to the future for brighter and better things.

There are many other things I would be led to mention but time and space will not permit. Respectfully, G R Harrison, October 25, 1881.

(NK note: I would imagine this speech and report did not go over very well with the County court, however Mr. Harrison was a man before his time. He had visions of what it should be like, but probably never lived to see it. He apparently was a well educated man, he did not misspell a word in this report. Harrison was elected on the fourth ballot Jan 3, 1881 at \$100 for two years. This was a big salary reduction. The year before was \$300 and the next year was \$250. Harrison did not fill out his two year term. He resigned Jan 2, 1882. I searched for something on G R Harrison, but could not find him in the 1870 or 1880 census. However a G R Harrison married D H McFall June 21, 1870 with DW Blankenship, MG. Nancy Kennedy, transcriber)

The 1881 School Report of G R Harrison, McNairy County Superintendent

**Scholastic Population**

White male - 2,866	White female - 2,693	5,559
Colored male - 443	Colored female - 425	<u>868</u>
		Grand total 6,427

**Teachers:**

White male - 60	White female - 20	80
Colored Male - 8	Colored Female - 4	<u>12</u>
		92

**Number of Schools in County:**

White 68	Colored - 12	80
----------	--------------	----

Average numbers of Days taught during year - 60

Average Compensation of teachers per Month - \$29.81

Average cost of tuition per pupil per month - .43 cents

**Number of School Houses - 70**

Stone or Brick - 2	Frame - 18	Log -50
--------------------	------------	---------

The school systems received \$15,624.77 for the year. Salaries of teachers was \$8,228.80



School sites buildings or repairs spent was \$624.08 Paid Superintendent \$300  
 Schools erected during the year - 2 frame and 3 log  
 Estimated valued of School Houses, including sites, desks, seats, etc - \$17,355.00  
 Number of Private Schools taught in the County during the year - 25  
     Number of teachers at private schools - 30  
     Number of pupils enrolled in private schools - 1.200  
     Average daily attendance in private schools - 900  
     Average cost per pupil in private school per month \$1.35

(NK note: I added the teacher's salary, the superintendent salary and school repairs for te year.)  
 (which I deducted from the \$15,624.77 money received. This left \$6,471.89 for the school )  
 (commissioner which was 79% of the teacher's salary. )

THIS REPORT WAS MADE ON A BIG FORM FURNISHED BY THE STATE OF  
 TENNESSEE, LEON TROUSDALE, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

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MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE 1888  
 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
 L SANDERS PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Scholastic population of McNairy County, both white and black 1888:		In Geography	309
White Males	2759	In U S History	217
White Females	2595	Geology of Tenn	23
Col Males	497	Agriculture	4
Col Females	472		
Total	6323		

\*\*\*\*\*

Average Daily Attendance	
White	3189
Colored	<u>497</u>
Total	3786

In Orthography	3112
In Reading	3214
In Writing	2123
In Arithmetic	1252
In English Grammar	628

School Houses	
Stone or Brick	1
Frame	35
Log	<u>27</u>
Total	63
3 School houses erected this year	

\*\*\*\*\*

Report of Schools	
White Schools	60
Colored Schools	21

Teachers	
White Male	43
White Female	17
Colored Male	12
Colored Female	<u>9</u>
Total	81

School Districts in County	19
Grade Schools	3
Consolidated schools	3
Schools Controlled by Towns	2

Private Schools	
Private School in county	7
No of teachers	8
Average daily attendance	292
Average tuition per pupil	12 ½

\*\*\*\*\*

Expenditures	
Teacher's salaries	\$9,041.97
School site, Buildings Rep	679.02
Furniture, etc	82.50
Paid Superintendent	212.56
Other expenses	96.47
Balance on hand	\$7047.56

Avg. Teacher's pay per month	\$30.00
Average per student - per month	.80

Teacher meetings held	10
Teachers attending	82
Schools visited this year	84
Public Addresses delivered	79
First Grade Certificates issued	35

Teachers Licenses	
White male	43
White female	18
Colored male	15
Colored female	4

\*\*\*\*\*

### PETITION FOR SCHOOL 1900

We the undersigned appeal to county court to grant us an other school house in the 19 civil district of McNairy County:

Mrs Emily Braudaway  
 J C Carter                      J T Dick  
 H C Harris                      R L Hendrix  
 J H Hornbuckle                Elbert Houston  
 A M King                        J F King  
 W A King                        W G Matlock  
 W M McNatt                    E T Morris  
 J M Mullin                      J H Richards  
 C P Tenneson                 J K Wilkinson  
 E H Williams                  L M Woods

Number of signatures: 23

The school is wanted on the Selmer and Bethel Road about 2 ½ miles from Selmer.

ELECTION FOR SCHOOL DIRECTORS FOR DISTRICT 52 - May 1902

J R Hurley	24 *	winner	S F Romaine	9
E W Wyatt	29 *	winner	J W Boshart	1
D D Michie	29 *	winner	J M Chapman	1

We the undersigned clerks and judges of school district No 52 do hereby certify that the above is a correct statement of votes cast for school directors for the above commissioner district.

J R Hurley, Officer	D L Michie, clerk
E W Wyatt, clerk	J M Chapman, judge
S F Romine, judge	J W Elam, judge

**(Note: apparently the candidates could be officers of the election also.)**

Poll list:

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. A A Cole      | 2. J L Hendrix  |
| 3 S F Romine     | 4 J M Corle ?   |
| 5 J W Elam       | 6 J M Chapman   |
| 7 J R Hurley     | 7 E W Wyatt     |
| 9 - McDaniel     | 10 W T Wyatt    |
| 11 J W Gardner ? | 12 J A Cook     |
| 13 D D Michie    | 14 L A Mitchell |
| 15 J R Bosheart  | 16 J C Barns ?  |
| 17 W B Milton    | 18 R J Isbell   |
| 19 J R Reid      | 20 J M Elam     |
| 21 G W Gipson    | 22 W S Burks    |
| 23 J W Bosheart  | 24 J W Flatt    |
| 25 W C Elam      | 25 W D Burns    |
| 27 J R Wilks     | 28 J T Pinkston |
| 29 J H Mitchell  | 30 N A Brown    |
| 31 F M Meek      |                 |

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**Austin School - District 72** elected James Haynes, John Hawkins and John Davis as school commissioners. Each one got nine votes. No date. Apparently the people that held the election did most of the voting and the three candidates were among them. Nine people voted.

Officer - James Haynes	John Hawkins 0 Judge
W J Mullen - Judge	John Davis - Judge
J C Mullens - clerk	W M Graham - clerk

Those that voted besides the above were: Vester Sweat, R M Gurley, G W Gurley

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**FILED WITH THE COUNTY COURT, JULY 2, 1883, J R ADAMS, CLERK**

We the undersigned Common School Directors and citizens of the 10<sup>th</sup> school district of McNairy County respectfully petition the County Court to annul its action by which the territory and scholastic population was reduced and a new district formed.

Signed A C Moore, Cornelius Graham ((smeared, not sure this is correct) and W C Lewis, Commissioners. Also signed by H B Roberson, W W Roberson, J M Sanders, G W Moore, B P Moore, D H Robinson, J P McIntire, J R S Moore, J A Moore, J A Roberson, W H H Gillespie, L M Moore, Obed Coats, C A McAlin, Wm Laughling.

We the designated citizens of the 13<sup>th</sup> district do not believe the portion added to our district and taken from the 10<sup>th</sup> district to be done. (No signatures)

**TO THE WORSHIPFUL COUNTY COURT OF MCNAIRY COUNTY  
APRIL TERM 1883 - PETITION TO RE- ESTABLISH SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

The undersigned would most respectfully represent that they as common school directors in the 80<sup>th</sup> district of said county. They would state that at the October term, 1882, of the County Court of said county a new district was formed and large portion of the territory was taken from district number 80, by which said district is reduced to such small number of scholastic population as to render it of but little value. Said action by the Court was without the authority or consent of your petitioners and they request that said action be set aside and the district be left as before. Respectfully, R C Murry and J P Smallwood, commissioners.

We, D M Baker and H A Warren, School Directors of the 18<sup>th</sup> district of said county would state that the new school district formed by the County Court of McNairy County at the October term, 1882, took off the 18<sup>th</sup> district a large territory and reduced the scholastic population to about nineteen children which reduces the means of said district so much as to make it almost impossible to have a school that will be worth anything. We therefore ask that the action of the Court at the October term so fore as it ---- upon the territory of the 18<sup>th</sup> district be set aside and that the district be left as before that action. D M Baker, H A Warren, Commissioners.

**MINORITY REPORT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
FILED JUNE 4, 1883, J R ADAMS, CLERK**

I, S L Warren, one of the committees appointed to adjust the differences between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> and a new school district known as the Jopling District beg leave to submit this as a minority report.

I find that said new district formed from fractions of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 78<sup>th</sup> and 80-th school district, and that the same was approved by the court upon the recommendation of a majority of the commissioners of the 78<sup>th</sup> district and by one of the commissioners of the 80<sup>th</sup> district. I find that the majority of the commissioners of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> district did not recommend or approve the same and that said new district was formed and established in violation of Section 977 of the code. I find that no 18 is so reduced in scholastic population as to render it impracticable to maintain a school for more than one month in the year. The south boundary line of the new district runs within 400 yards of the school house of the 18<sup>th</sup> district. The formation of said new district virtually destroys two respectable districts and make three which are practically worthless, all of which is respectfully submitted. S L Warren

**MAJORITY REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS - SCHOOL DISTRICTS 18<sup>th</sup> & 80  
FILED JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>, 1883, J R ADAMS, CLERK**

The majority of the committee appointed to adjust the differences between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup>s and a new school district known as the Jopling District beg leave to report that we find on the books of the County Court that the new district was formed from fractions of the 78<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> school districts, and that a majority of the commissioners of the 78<sup>th</sup> and one of the commissioners of the 80<sup>th</sup> approve and recommended the formation of said new district and we are of opinion that the territory of the 18<sup>th</sup> district has not been en--- upon.; and we recommend that the new district be confirmed as established by the court, all of which is respectfully submitted. A N Fink and J T Lewter

This was in the envelope. Do not know which district is Chapel Hill district.

Mrs Denev	1	Sarah Jane Barnes	4	Julia Simpson	2
Mrs Pleas Barnes	2	Bud Smallwood	4	P— Smallwood	2
Met Malwood ?	3	Wm McCann	2	Wm Yarbrough	3
Mrs Elliot	2	Lud Ellett	1	Isaah Sweat	3
R C Murry	5	Sally Lumpkins	1	Bud Wolf	1
Bedford Younger	1	W D Murry	3	John Harris	3
Clay Murry	3	total	46		

(This was very hard to read and some of the names are probably wrong. NK)

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**McNairy County Superintendents taken from the notes of the C L Majors papers, that was in the possession of Charles Whitlow. It is all on tablet paper in pencil and the handwriting of C L Majors, and is now in the Archives of McNairy County. These facts are not verified by the transcriber because Mr Majors was the historian of McNairy County for many years.**

1 yr	F B Kernodle	July 7, 1873	to	July 6, 1874
6 1/2 yr	Thomas F Sanders	July 6, 1874	to	Jan 3, 1881
1 yr	George R Harrison	Jan 3, 1881	to	Jan 2, 1882
3 mo	vacant	Jan 2, 1882	to	Apr 3, 1882
2 3/4 yr	L Sanders	Apr 3, 1882	to	Jan 5, 1885
2 yrs	M R Abernathy	Jan 5, 1885	to	Jan 3, 1887
2 yrs	Lindsey Sanders	Jan 3, 1887	to	Jan 7, 1889
7 mo	B F Basinger	Jan 7, 1889	to	Aug 5, 1889
1 yr 5 mo	J H Davis	Aug 5, 1889	to	Jan 5, 1991
4 yrs	M R Abernathy	Jan 5, 1991	to	Jan 7, 1995
	Calvin Hamm	Jan 7, 1995	to	
	Horry Hodges			
	J D Mullins			
	Terry Abernathy elected	Jan 1903, 1905, 1907, 1909		
	Aaron Brooks	Jan, 1913	to	Sept 1914
	A H Grantham	1914	to	1918

Terry Abernathy	1918	to	1924
C L Majors	1924	to	1928
Roy Estes	1928	to	1936
B T Kiser	1936	to	1948
J C Taylor	1948		

(this was taken from three sheets of paper from the C L Majors file. C L Majors was Superintendent 1924 to 1928.)

**These papers were stapled together in the C L Majors file and much of the information will overlap. The last pages are typed as they were found, apparently as Mr Majors found the information. In another Volume of Looking Back by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy is an abstract of Mr. Major's outlook on McNairy County Schools.**

The Legislature of Tennessee (the one preceding the meeting of the County court July 7, 1873) by act required the election of a county Supt of Public Instruction by the County Court.

In obedience to that act the County Court on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, it being the 7<sup>th</sup> in July announced its decision to elect. Whereupon the following candidates came forward and announced their candidacies, the result of balloting by the Court being as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> ballot:	Barry - 11	Kernodle - 11	Roach - 1 ?	McKennon - 4
2 <sup>nd</sup> ballot	Barry - 11	Kernodle - 13	Roach - 8	
3 <sup>rd</sup> ballot	Barry - 11	Kernodle - 21		

(Roach and McKennon having withdrawn.)

Kernodle declared elected and salary fixed at \$300 for 12 months.

F B Kernodle, 1<sup>st</sup> Supt of Schools in McNairy County was a school teacher, taught in the old Browder's school house on Oxford Creek, north of where Boss Hockaday now lives. R C, J T and Alus Alexander went to school to him. (Mr Majors wrote this a long time ago - Mr Boss Hockaday has been dead many years. (I, Nancy Kennedy, today, May 1, 2005 live on a portion of the land that one Hockaday owned on what is now Hwy 142 in Selmer. Two men by the name of Hockaday owned a vast amount of this rich farm land north of Oxford Creek. Orlin Watson, aged gentleman about 90 years old, former McNairy County Road Supervisor told me the school was behind me about 1/4 mile and east about 1/4 mile.)

Court Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, July 6, 1874, F B Kernodle, County Supt came before Court and resigned as Supt of Public Schools, having served one year. Election to fill the vacancy followed:

1<sup>st</sup> ballot: Thomas F Sanders - 17; Daniel Barry - 11; C A Wright - 4

Sanders was declared elected, having received a majority on 1<sup>st</sup> ballot. No mention of salary.

The Court met 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, Jan 4, 1875. This being time to elect Supt, Thomas F Sanders was duly elected and allow \$25 per month for the previous 6 months from meeting in July to December 31, 1874, to be paid out of school funds. No mention of salary for 1875. At meeting of Court in January 1876, ordered salary of County Supt for the year 1875 be \$300.

On account of weather conditions not a quorum present for January 1877 term. Same conditions existed in February and therefore no court held. Court met April 2, 1877. This being the regular court to elect Supt. Thomas F Sanders received 29 votes and declared elected and salary fixed at \$250 per annum.

Jan 6, 1879, Thomas F Sanders received a majority of all the votes cast and was declared duly elected Supt for one year ending with January term 1880 or until his successor be elected and sworn in.

At the January 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 1880 term, T F Sanders, Supt salary was fixed at \$200 for the year.

January 3, 1881 term. Ballot for Supt resulted on the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot in the election of George R Harrison to serve for the year 1881.

January 2, 1882. Ordered that resignation of G R Harrison as County Supt tendered to this term of court be received and that the office be declared vacant and then deferred election to fill the vacancy until the April term of court. Then the Court ordered allowed \$100.00 for his services as Supt for year 1881.

April 3, 1882 term. On 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot L Sanders was elected County Supt to fill out the balance of G R Harrison term, that is rest of the year 1882.

January 1, 1883 term. Election of County Supt. After speeches by the candidates 1<sup>st</sup> ballot L Sanders received 16 votes, J D Sullivan and N F Kirkpatrick's vote not recorded. L Sanders declared elected and then ordered to be allowed \$150 for his services from April 1882 to January 1883. And then at the April 2, 1883 term ordered that L Sanders, Supt be allowed an additional fee of \$100 as County Supt for the year 1882.

January 5, 1885 term, election of Supt declared in order 6<sup>th</sup> ballot resulted as follows: M R Abernathy 14; L Sanders 10; John Fisher 3. Abernathy declared elected. Ordered that L Sanders be allowed enough in addition to what has already been paid to him to make \$250 for his services for 1884.

Jan 4, 1886 term. Ordered that M R Abernathy be allowed \$300 for his services for 1885.

Jan 3, 1887 term. Election of supt declared in order: candidates - M R Abernathy, H O Norman, Lindsey Sanders, Davis. Lindsey Sanders received 17 votes on the 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Sanders declared elected and allowed \$200 for year 1887.

April 2, 1888. Ordered Lindsey Sanders Supt. Be paid salary of \$250 for year 1888.

Jan 7, 1889. Salary of Supt for year 1889 fixed at \$200. Election of Supt being next in order: L Sanders 2, M R Abernathy 8, Alfred Whitehurst 0, B F Basinger 22, J H Davis 4. This was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. B F Basinger declared winner.

August 5, 1889. A vacancy in office of County Supt of Public Instruction caused by the death of our lamented friend B F Basinger it was announced that an election to fill said vacancy was in order when on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot J H Davis received 16 votes and was declared by Court elected Supt of Public School.

Jan 5, 1891. Election of Supt next in order of business. In short speeches candidates announced as follows: M R Abernathy 24; R D Etheridge 6; Johnson 2; J H Davis 6. M R Abernathy was elected on the first ballot.

Some of the next portion is a repeat of the above:

F B Kernodle first Supt of Schools in McNairy County was elected by County Court, July 7, 1873, on 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. The other candidates were Daniel Barry, a Mr Roach and Mr McKennon. Kernodle served one year for \$300.

Thomas F Sanders - elected on first ballot over Daniel Barry and C A Wright, July 6, 1874. Re-elected 1875-76-77-78-79-80. Salary \$300

George R Harrison elected January 3, 1881 on the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. Salary \$100 for 2 years. Resigned Jan 2, 1882. (Note: the big cut in salary from previous years.)

L (Lindsey) Sanders elected April 3, 1882 on third ballot. Other candidates J D Sullivan and N F Kirkpatrick. Salary \$250.

M R Abernathy, elected Jan 5, 1885 on the sixth ballot. Other candidates L Sanders and John Fisher. Salary \$300. Re-elected January 3, 1887 on 5<sup>th</sup> ballot over H O Norman, Lindsey Sanders and Mr J H Davis. Salary \$200 for 1887, raised to \$250 for 1888.

B F Basinger elected January 7, 1889 on third ballot. Other candidates: L Sanders, M R Abernathy, Alfred Whitehurst, J H Davis. Salary was \$200 for 2 years. Died during summer.

J H Davis, elected August 5, 1889 on 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for unexpired term of Basinger.

M R Abernathy elected Jan 5, 1891 on first ballot over R D Etheridge, J H Davis and Mr Johnson. Re-elected Jan 2, 1893 first ballot over C (Calvin) Hamm.

C (Calvin) Hamm elected January 7, 1895 on second ballot. Other candidates: M R Abernathy, J R Carothers, Miss Stanton (a woman?? In 1895 - this is amazing) and R A N Lipford. Re-elected Jan 4, 1897 over R A N Lipford.



July 6, 1896, ordered that G T Bourned, J C Crary and H G Thomas be appointed to examine candidates for County Supt of Public Instruction for McNairy County

October 5, 1896, ordered by the Court that \$28.75 be allowed to Luther Majors for bridge across Moss Creek in first district. (This had nothing to do with the school system - but it was noted, therefore it is included.)

October 3, 1898. Ordered that \$15 be allowed the Commission for examining candidates for the office of County Supt of Public Instruction.

January 4, 1897. Candidates for County Supt. Calvin Hamm, Jr declared elected over R A N Lipford.

August 1, 1898. Ordered the R M Houston of Bethel, J D Mullins of Chewalla and Miss Amanda Thomas of Selmer be and hereby appointed as commissioners to conduct exam of candidates for County Supt of Public Schools for McNairy County and for sufficient reasons appearing to the court it is ordered that they meet in com (?) On Friday and Saturday before the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in October next to conduction said exam

Horry Hodges elected January 2, 1899 over Calvin Hamm. Hamm 16, Hodge 22.

January 7, 1901. Candidate for Supt on the first ballot: Terry Abernathy 16, J D Mullins 23.

January 1903. County Supt of Public Instruction: John D Mullins 17, Terry Abernathy 21. Terry Abernathy declared Supt on first ballot. Re-elected Jan 2, 1905 over J D Mullins, 23 to 15. Re-elected Jan 7, 1907 without opposition and by acclamation. Salary \$500. Again elected unanimously in 1909.

Aaron Brooks Jan 1913 - Sept 1914

A H Grantham 1914- 1918

Terry Abernathy 1918 - 1924

C L Majors 1924 - 1928 (the writer of the document, apparently in 1948.)

Roy Estes 1928 - 1936

B T Kiser 1936-1948

J C Taylor 1948 -

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**PETITION FOR SCHOOL - 9<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT 1902**

To the Worshipful County Court of McNairy County, Tennessee, October Term 1902:

We the undersigned petitioners and citizens of the 9<sup>th</sup> civil district of McNairy County Tennessee, would most most (said most, twice) respectfully petition the honorable court to give them a another school district in the 9<sup>th</sup> civil district of said county and state, said school district to be described as follows:

Beginning at the corner of Robert Wade's field and extending down the ridge road, which is the public or mail road to the county line, including the families of Shelby Phelps, Andy Carroll thru woods east following the county line to the home of Tom Carroll thru west to the corner of said Robert Wade's field including the families of Widow Carroll and Jesse Johnson.

Families	School Children
H C Farris	5
L C Horn	1
G W Singleton	2
S F Wardlow	5
J W Cooksey	3
Ira Carroll	4
W H Hill	1
T A Carroll	2
Missie Kelley	3

Petition was granted

School District No ---- at W D Jopling's School House, beginning at Sandy Creek from there to Clay (?) Murry's from there to John Halmes, thence to W D Murry house, from there to Bedford Younger's, thence from there to the foot of the hill west of John Lewter' house, thence from the Lee Nance place from there to the Granny Rains field, thence from there to the forks of the road north of the Hugh Rains place, from there down the line of Big Springs district from there to the Curry place, from there to Pharr's Mill from there up Cypress (Creek) to the beginning.

Tom Hockaday, District Comm No 78; Henry Lumpkin, Comm District 90; can't read name of other comm.

No date but was entered on page 476 (probably County Court clerk Minutes)

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**MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, COUNTY COURT, JULY TERM 1880**

TO THE WORSHIPFUL COUNTY COURT            )  
 OF MCNAIRY COUNTY                            )

We the undersigned petitioners living in school district 88 of McNairy County respectfully beg leave to state that the present average – in school district no 88 is quite inconvenient and we desire to divide the district so as to have two schools, ours at Liberty Church in the south end of the district and the other at Mt Olivet, the usual place of teaching. This will divide the scholastic population about equal so that all can have a equal benefits. Whereas it has been impracticable heretofore for all to have equal share in the benefits of the free school. We therefore pray the Honorable County Court to approve three or more commissioners to so divide the distance as to insure an equal share of the benefits of all children living within the district and as in duty bound will ever pray, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1889

J M Mitchell

John Ross

William W Williams	Iva (or Ina) Cornelius
F A Bryant	Mary Fitzpatrick
J G Sumley (?)	Elizabeth Green
J A Asbill	M N Coggains
John Hardin	John Blalack
L H McCollum	John Simpkins

Ordered by the Court that — be appointed commissioners to divide school district No 88 into two districts and locate one school house at Liberty Church, the other at Mount Olivet and report the same to County Superintendent.

( My Note: This was in what is now the Michie area. There is a cemetery at Mt Olivet, in Albert Brown's book it is called Tulu, but Tulu and Mt Olivet are two separate communities. Most of the markers have been vandalized at Mt Olivet. Liberty was almost at the Mississippi line. So this was in the southeast corner of McNairy County.  
N Kennedy, transcriber)

To the Worshipful County Court of McNairy County when holding court at Purdy on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in July 1880, it being the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

We the commissioners of the fifth school district of McNairy County respectfully petition and ask your Worship that owing to the extreme ----- thus rendering our schools too inconvenient for our children (that you) allow and grant that a New School District be formed out of the fractions now included in said District Number 5 and be bounded as follows: viz

Beginning at and including Jordin Hardin, thence north to Jacob Baker, thence NE to Garner Jimerson, thence South E to John Weeks, thence south to the Wm Ingle old place. Thence SW to the McBride house on Hue Patterson land, thence SW to D – Hardin on J R Morris land, thence NW to Pryar Jackson, thence north to Jordin Hardin to the beginning including all parties named as corner (?) Men. To grant above will confer a great favor and all interested.  
John Franklin Commissioner — School District  
J C Harris and John Carothers - Commissioner 4<sup>th</sup> School District  
No signature - Commissioner — School District

(Note: these names were faded and with the census book I was able to get some of them and these are guesses. This area was in Civil District 11 in 1880, somewhere around Leapwood. N Kennedy, transcriber.)

Hugh S Patterson	4	Sidney Orey (?)	3
John Boleyn	3	Marthy Jackson	2*
R S Mares (?)	2	D D Hardin	4*
Prier Jackson	2	W McBride	1
G Hales (?)	2	J B Terry	1*
J C Hardin	1*	J R Lewis	4*
J F Patterson (?)	3	John Weakes	3

G Jimirson	2	Clabe Martindale	1
Jacob Bacur (Baker)	1	W Pearson	1
Trudy Canes ???	3	W W Vester	1*
R J Morris	0	J P Jackson	2
D D Hardin	4*	J C Hardin	1*
J R Lewis	4*	C C Walls	2
J B Terry	1*	W J Hardin	0
Marthy Jackson	2*	W W Vester	1 *
D H Patterson	3		

\* Listed twice

We the undersigned agree to and recommend to the Worshipful Court of McNairy Court of McNairy County, Tenn that formation of a new school district to be formed of the fraction of Dist — and Dist ---- to be bounded as follows:

Beginning where the county line between McNairy and Hardeman crosses Little Hatchie River run thence up Hatchie to a point opposite where ~~Joseph Sanders~~ Jacob Cain now lives, thence north ~~Sanders house~~ then north to said Cain's house, northward passing where Cooper now lives on Whitton's land to G D Freeman's on Whitton Duncan's place thence north to the new Bolivar road near where Moore lives on lockman's land, thence with said road to Kies (?) Creek thence northward up said creek to the Chaffin Ford, thence west to the county line then south with the county line to the beginning.

Respectfully submitted

James P Grantham, Comm. District 12

W D Huddleston, Comm Dist 4 or 9

J M Grantham, Comm District 12

J S Carter, Comm Dist 4 or 9

Approved.

( Note: This western McNairy county north west of what is now Hwy 64, don't know how far back it went, probably in the area of Mount Pleasant. N Kennedy, transcriber)

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#### MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, OCTOBER 1882 TERM OF COUNTY COURT

Ordered by the Court that a new School district be formed in the 7<sup>th</sup> civil district and that the — bounds as follows:

School District No – at W D Joplings School house. Beginning at Sandy Creek, from there to Clay Murry's, from there to John Holmes. Thence to W D Murry house, from there to Bedford Younger's house, from there to the foot of the hill west of John Lewter's house. Thence from there to Leo Nance's place, from there to the Graney Rains field, thence from there to the forks of the road north of the Hugh Rains place, from there down the line of the Big Springs District, from there to the Curry place, from there to Pharr's Mill, from there up Cypress to the beginning.

Henry Lumpkin, Commissioner District 80

T J Hawkins, Saml Hockaday Commissioners District 78.

Ordered by the Court that no more school district be changed or new one created in McNairy County.

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**SCHOOLS - GRADE SCHOOLS OR ACADEMY  
CHARTER OF INCORPORATION**

(Note: These were found in the McNairy County Deed Books)

**Falcon Academy - July 15, 1879.** Those that signed the charter: W E Atkins, Joe J Horn, Albert Adams, M R Abernathy, James M Nelson, Joe C Taylor.

**Montezuma High School - Jackson District , October 4, 1879.** Those that signed the charter were: A W Skinner, W B Haltson, J W Perkins, W F Rowsey, Jo Carson, Wm C Carson, N C Riggs.

**Hepsidam - Jan 5, 1880** in the Third Civil District. Charter members: I A Mitchell, J A Maness, J E Mitchell, W M Massey, Francis Kirby, Grace Russom, James Kerby, W C Worsham.

**Oakridge Institute, Nov 11, 1879,** 8<sup>th</sup> Civil District. Those that signed charter were: Mose Kirkpatrick, N T Kirkpatrick, T B Malone, J H Malone, David Williams

**Bethel Academy, March 15, 1880.** Signing charter: A W Stovall, W W Stovall, W C Wilson, R W Tatem, R L Kernodle, R K Hendrix, R D Wilson, A R McCalip, W W Turner

**Speers Academy, March 19, 1875.** Signing charter were R W Baker, R S Taylor, W L Trantham, Taylor Baker, M F Richardson, D C Trantham. This school was located between Guys and Chewalla.

**Adamsville Male & Female Institution, August 16, 1879.** Those that signed the charter were: John T Warren, J S Freeling, James Combs, P H Thrasher, G M (or W) Sipes, John J Prince MD, J S Carroll, WM S Wolverton, D A Hill, A A Farris.

**Piney Grove Academy, March 19, 1877** was probably in the Second Civil District. I also have the date March 23, 1880 listed. Signing were J L W Boatman, J S Hanna, R H Smith, J H Wren, James J Smith, J N Smith, WM Taylor, John Bassham. (This school was located north west of Ramer, and was open until the 1930's. The reason I know is that Helen King, one of the ladies that help to type and keep the records of McNairy County went to school there.)

**Stantonville Institute, January 12, 1880.** Those that were listed on the charter were T R Beck, J A Romine, J C McConnell, John H Meeks, J R Hailey, D M Boon, J A McKenzie.

**Shady Hill Seminary, January 5, 1880.** On the charter were H D Woodard, J T Young, F M Oneal, B I) Young, A J Martindale, Christian Martin, J H Holley. This was in the 16<sup>th</sup> District (This may have been in the Leapwood area)

**McNairy Male & Female Institute, August 27, 1879,** signing the charter were: S A Norwood, T M Patterson, J J Bradley, J P Rogers, E W Sheffield, J H Blakely, J W Conger, J W Fielding, L J Anderson, R J Jennings, J S Rogers, R P Kirby.

**Ramer Academy, July 15, 1879,** charter signed by A B Hamm, J L Fowler, J S Ramer, N S Hudlespeth, F P Jeans, J F Monroe.

**Purdy Temperance Institute, Sept 8, 1879.** Those signing the charter were: J R Stovall, G D McBee, J M Harris, J R Adams, J W Purviance, G W Shipman, Job Bell, N C Riggs, T F Sanders

Others were: Austin Academy 1880, Bethel School 1896, Falcon Academy 1879, Georgia Wright Female institute (at Purdy) 1859, Gravel Hill 1881, Webb Fork in the Fourth District in 1880.

(There are probably more listed, these were the ones I found while searching for other facts.)

**OVER THE YEARS I HAVE COLLECTED SCHOOL INFORMATION WHICH I AM INCLUDING IN THIS BOOK(ABOVE.) . SOME OF IT MR FRANKLIN MITCHELL MAY HAVE IN HIS BOOK ON MCNAIRY COUNTY SCHOOLS. I DO NOT MEAN TO DUPLICATE HIS RECORDS, I AM JUST PUBLISHING THE INFORMATION I HAVE.**

**Nancy Kennedy, May 1, 2005**

**REUBEN LONG  
FRANCIS KERBY, ETAL VS C M CASON, ETAL  
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT #273, 1872**

Complaints: Francis Kerby, Joseph Long, William Walker and Susan his wife, James Long, Robert Rankin & Josephine his wife, Acan Miffle, all of McNairy County, Tennessee

By Francis Cherry administrator of Robert Long, deceased of the County of Henderson, Tenn; John Ingraham and Nimrod Ingraham, administrators of A H Ingraham, deceased; and John Aldridge of the County of McNairy County; C M Cason of the County of Madison, Tennessee and A H Skinner, Administrator of J C Hollis, deceased of County of McNairy County.

Reuben Long departed this life in the State of Texas, Bowie County, about the month of October 1856 where his estate in said state was fully administrated. That said deceased at the time of his death owned effects in the State of Tennessee (Henderson or McNairy County.)

Reuben Long left surviving him the following children to wit: Jasper Long, Susan who intermarried with William Walker, James Long, Josephine Long who intermarried with Robert

Rankin, Sarah Long who intermarried with Acan Miffley who has since died, leaving no issue alive and Francis Long who is a minor under the age of twenty one years.

At the time of his death, Reuben Long owned considerable estate real and personal in said State of Texas and Tennessee, consisting of lands, slaves and other personal property and debts (owed to him).

Robert Long was appointed guardian of minor children of Reuben Long, with John Aldridge and A H Ingraham as his sureties, Dec 6, 1858. Robert Long resigned his position as guardian in the year 1861 and J C Hollis and C M Cason were named as guardians of minors of Reuben Long May 6, 1861. After J C Hollis died, A H Skinner was appointed in his place as guardian.

Robert Long removed said slaves to wit: Dick, Mose, Aney, Bell, George, Steve, Puss and some children about the year 1858 from the State of Texas to McNairy County. Robert Long (brother of Reuben Long) died intestate in McNairy County about the year 1868 and H M Burten was appointed his administrator, who resigned and Francis Cherry was appointed administrator.

Susan Walker gave this deposition on August 30, 1875. Abstracts:

Susan Walker was the daughter of Reuben Long, she will age 34 next month (September) "I returned to Tennessee from Texas in June 1858, all the white children came together at this same time. Robert Long, Sr and John Long moved the family."

Susan married William Walker on February 25, 1859 in McNairy County, Tennessee

The negro men were brought back to Tennessee by Robert Long and a Wm Barnhill before Susan married.

Susan's mother had died and Reuben had married another woman, because Susan called her 'step-mother' and she had \$90, a wagon, a horse and yoke of oxen when they left Texas. There were six children, 2 boys and 4 girls. Two boys being the oldest (Jasper, James, Susan, Josephine, Sarah and Francis. The boys lived or stayed with Robert Long. The step mother had one child by Reuben Long, does not give name or mention again that I could find..

William Walker sold Susan's interest and Francis' interest in their inheritance to C M Cason August 1872 for \$600 each.

Deposition of Francis Long, March 25, 1875. Abstracts:

Her father, Reuben Long kept a record of births and she was born May 1, 1851. At the time of the deposition, she is living with her sister Susan. She traveled 26 miles round trip to Purdy for depositions.

John Alderidge's deposition, March 30, 1875: says he is about 51 years old When he became guardian of the minor children the slaves were: Dick about 65 or 70, his wife Anie about 50-55. Moses about 21. Bill 13, George 12-13, Steve age 8 and Puss about 6 year old and Babe about one year old.

Reuben long went to Texas about one year before he died. John Aldridge traveled 24 miles round trip to Purdy.

W J Long, says he did not know how old he was when they left Texas, but they made his step mother pay all the money, about \$100 in gold, she had for expenses on the trip. His Uncle Robert Long and John Long came for them. John Long was a gambling man and they would stay as high as 3-4 days at one place. They all stayed with John Long's the first year after they

returned. Part of the family went to Robert Long and part went to William Walker's. W J says he was a good size plow boy. There were six children , the step mother and her child.

The reason for this case was that if Robert Long had any money or assets on hand as guardian of the children, it was turned over to Cason and Hollis. The slaves were hired out and it was mostly this money that was never divided among the heirs. This case went to the State of Tennessee Supreme Court in 1877 but was sent back to Chancery Court for defendants to offer additional proof.

In the 1860 McNairy County, Tennessee census, transcribed by Harold Cox:  
Dist 14 HH 2036: William Walker 19, Susan 19, James Long 15, Josephine Long 13. Sarah Long 12, and Francis Long age 10.

Jasper age 17, is living with John Long. District 8, hh 1261

I could never find Reuben Long's second wife's name or which child he had by her. It has to be the youngest, Francis, or the child was never recognized in this court case.

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**D T SMITH VS R S SMITH  
MCNAIRY COUNTY COURT  
NOVEMBER 13, 1907 - PETITION TO SELL LAND**

D T Smith, a resident of McNairy County, Tennessee vs D R Hurst, Alex Smith, Prudence Smith, Will Smith, Martha Ann Wyatt, Acy Wyatt, residents of the State of Alabama, Arkadell Jones, Oscar Jones, Nellie Smith, Will Smith, Bobbie Smith, Mattie Brooks and Frank Brooks, Alex Farris and his two minor children, residents of McNairy County, Levi Hurst, Mrs Frannie Stinnett residents of Hardin County, Alex Hurst resident of Lawrence County, W L Hurst and sister \_\_\_\_\_ Hurst, residents of the State of Alabama, John Hurst and Add Hurst residents of the State of Texas, Sam Hurst, Bettie Kennedy and J S Kennedy, residence unknown, George Rimmer and all his children by his wife Tennessee Hurst, their name, residence, age, sex of Rimmer children unknown, , Fannie Moody and J L Moody resident of the State or Arkansas, one minor child of James M Hurst, deceased.

After reading this document, to the best of my ability, I found:

W L. Hurst, Sr died July 4, 1904 and owned about 92 ½ acres in the 13<sup>th</sup> civil district of McNairy County. He left no widow or children, he never having been married, lived and died a bachelor.

W L Hurst had the following brothers and sisters, some of whom are dead and died before he died: (1) D R Hurst, ( 2) Alex Hurst, (3) John Hurst, (4) Sam Hurst, (5) Mattie Hurst, (6) Jess Hurst, (7) James M Hurst.

(1) D R Hurst is still living at the time of the lawsuit, age 68 and living at Falcon.

(2) Alex Hurst is still living at the time of the lawsuit.

(3) John Hurst Sr is deceased and leaves his children:

Levi Hurst,

Fannie Hurst married Alonzo Stinnett who is now dead

John Hurst, Jr



Mattie Farris (deceased) married Alex (Elihu) Farris and they had twin sons both of whom were living at the time this lawsuit was filed but one died before it was concluded. Odus survived.

Add Hurst, probably Adaline

(4) Sam Hurst died before the time of this lawsuit and leaves children:

Sam Hurst Jr

Bettie Hurst who married J S Kennedy

Tennessee Hurst who married George Rimmer (Tennessee died leaving several children.)

(5) Mattie Hurst who married Frank Brooks

(6) Jess Hurst died before this lawsuit and left two children

W L Hurst Sr

Eddie Hurst, deceased before 1907, married R S Smith, leaving her husband and the following children:

D T Smith, Alex Smith,

Prudence Smith (apparently deceased) who married Will Smith,

Martha Ann who married Acy Wyatt,

Arkadell Smith who married Oscar Jones,

Nellie Smith who married Will Smith also

Bobbie Smith.

Hopefully this is correct as it was hard to read. NK

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**SAMUEL CHAMBERS, JUN VS A J KINCAID, ETALS  
MCNAIRY COUNTY, TENNESSEE COURT, 1866 # 111**

In this case Samuel Chambers, Senr died in 1844 leaving two sons, Samuel Jr and George W, both under the age of 21. John Chambers was appointed guardian until 1846 and A J Kincaid was then appointed guardian of the two minor children. Samuel Chambers Senr possessed a large estate, real and personal, but apparently the boys never received any benefits. It doesn't mention the land in the part I copied, but mentions the money received by Kincaid by the hiring out of the slaves from 1846. At the time of Samuel Chambers Sen's death he owned slaves: Nancy about 30 years old, Tilda about 7, Jeff and Sarah about 10 years old, Ann and Amanda.. After Mr Chamber's death, Nancy had Jeff about 1846. There was a settlement on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 1860 but all Samuel and George Chambers received was worthless notes for the hiring of the slaves in years past.

**DOCTORS WHO HAVE PRACTICED IN MCNAIRY COUNTY  
BY LESLIE HOUSTON**

One of the more interesting chapters in the history of McNairy County is the chapter about the family doctors who practiced here in the pre-hospital period of the county. Their service to the county was legendary, even though few of them had the advantage of a real sophisticated medical education, and none of them had a convenient hospital to help them care for the sick.

It is impossible to learn the first names of all these old timers, so I will just refer to most of them by their last names and if I should miss a few of them, just remember my intentions are good.

Adamsville had Dr Frank Sanders, Dr Jim Curry, Dr Hayse Abernathy, Dr Glen Abernathy and Dr Ernest Ledbetter.

Finger had Dr Barnes and Dr Tucker.

Bethel Springs had Dr Davis, Dr Motley and Dr Earnest Smith.

Ramer had Dr Wallace and Dr Key.

Chewalla and the Cypress Tank Area and Dr Harbin and Dr Fortune.

Gravel Hill and Dr Davis and Guys had Dr Kirkland.

Milledgeville had Dr Ross.

Selmer had Dr Bell, Dr John Ross Smith, Dr R M Kendrick, Dr Warren Wallace, Dr Earnest Smith, Dr Joe Carter, Dr Flatt, Dr George Curry (1931-32) and Dr O L Hill (moved to Oklahoma 1938).

Action had Dr John Abernathy

Stantonville had Dr Henry Sanders and Dr Gerry Sanders

Michie had Dr Charlie Chambers and Dr Barto Williams.

It should be noted that these doctors practiced medicine in this county before the term 'Family Practice' had been invented. They were known as "Country Doctors." They were a hardy breed. They went where they were called. In fact, I think Shakespeare had them in mind when he penned the lines - 'not snow, no not rain, nor heat, nor night keeps them from accomplishing their appointed rounds with all speed.' Yes, old time country doctors are a vanished breed and we miss them.

**JOHN GOOCH VS JESSEE GOOCH  
MCNAIRY COUNTY , TENNESSEE CHANCERY COURT, 1872 # 277  
BILL TO SELL LAND**

John G Gooch, a citizen of McNairy County, would respectfully show unto your Honor that Thomas Gooch died intestate in McNairy county on — 1864. He left surviving him the following heirs:

1. J G Gooch age 63 years old, a resident of McNairy County,
  2. Jessee Gooch, age 61 years old, a resident of the State of Mississippi
  3. Nicholas Gooch, age 59 years old, a resident of the State of Arkansas
  4. Margaret Gooch, deceased, who intermarried with E Dunaway, her heirs:
    - J T Dunaway, age 35, resident of McNairy County
    - W P Dunaway, age 33, resident of McNairy County
    - Polly Ann Dunaway, deceased, married Henry Ferguson (deceased)
      - Mary M Ferguson who married James Melton (McNairy County)
      - Nancy J Ferguson , deceased, married Wesley Ramer, no issue
      - James E Ferguson, age 20
      - Henderson Ferguson age 18
- After the death of Henry Ferguson, Polly married Henry Roten, issue

- Robert Roten, age 16  
 Frances E Roten, age 12  
 Rachel Roten, age 10  
 Mary Ann Roten, about 2 years old.
5. Polly Gooch, deceased married W B Terry, deceased, issue  
 Amanda who married Dr Hodges, a resident of Mississippi  
 Annie Terry, married D M Wisdom, a citizen of Jackson, Tenn  
 Molly Terry married James Hart, a citizen of Jackson, Tenn  
 Jessie Terry, age unknown, resident of Jackson, Tenn
6. William Gooch, deceased left surviving him his wife Sarah and eight children:  
 John T Gooch, 30 yrs old, McNairy County  
 Henry Gooch, 27 years old, residence unknown  
 James Gooch, age 19, McNairy County  
 Elizabeth Gooch who married John Laron, residence unknown  
 Marguary married Chaney Miller, McNairy County  
 Caroline age 20  
 Johnnie Gooch, under age 20  
 Annie Gooch, under age 20
- Thomas Gooch died seized of 200 acres and 147 acres of land in McNairy County.

**SNAKE CREEK DRAINAGE TAX FOR THE YEAR 1916**

Name -	Tract Numbers -	Acreage
Carothers, J H	16	8
Carothers, J R	17	6
Carothers, J H	18	26
Carothers, W T	20	17
Carothers, Mrs M C	8	54
Combs, W S	32	2
Coutis, J H	79	28.75
Cox, A S	65	.5
Farris, M E	80	44.1
Ferrell, Jack	27	8.10
Gann, D F	83	39.75
Gann, G W	87a	61.5
Gately, I T	95	21.5
Gilchrist, T A	66	24
Gilchrist, T A	63	11
Gilchrist, W A	62	31
Gray, W M Estate	78	61
Hawkins, Jim	31	5
Hawkins	37	21.37
Inman, J F	14	26
Kerby, J J	86	33

Kirkpatrick, N F	70	23.75
Laweler, H	82	78
Moore, Eliza Mrs	34	2.5
Parish, Mary Mrs	13	16
Pettigrew, J R	89	7
Pettigrew, D A	75	55
Pyron, G L	73	42
Rogers, Amy Mrs	40	60
Sanders, H C & E G	58	3.0
Sebring, Lorain	39	33.75
Sewell, S J	64	55
Shaw, Rebecca Mrs	47	117.9
Shaw, Rebecca Mrs	76	145
Sipes, J A	19	36.25
Sipes, W J	15	11
Smith, Heirs	99	75
Stevens, F L	91a	46
Surratt, Jean	26	15
Surratt, L	30	3.5
Surratt, C C	29	103.5
Surratt, J A	41	22.5
Surratt, Jean	42	5
Surratt, John	25	12
Surratt, Logan	24	24
Surratt, Alex	23	9
Surratt, Ruf	22	3.6
Surratt, Jean	28	25
Surratt, Jack	98	3.75
Tidwell, W T	72	63.05
Vinson, C R	77	86
Vinson, L H	74	35
Walker, W T	43	3.
White, Cola	97	6.25
White, A M	96	5
Williams, A S	45	40
Wilson, F G	81	4.5
Wilson, J H	57	50
Wilson, C L	69	120

### SNAKE CREEK DRAINAGE TAX FOR THE YEAR 1919

Name	Tract Numbers	Acreage
Carothers, J H	16	8

Carothers, J T	17	6
Carothers, J H	18	26
Carothers, W T	20	17
Carothers, M C Mrs	8	54
Coats, J H	79	28.75
Combs, W S	21	22
Cox, A S	65	.5
Ferrell, Jack	27	8.10
Gann, D F	83	39.75
Gann, G W	87a	61.05
Gately, I T	95	21.05
Gilchrist, F A	63	111
Gilchrist, W A	62	31
Gilchrist, T A	66	24
Gray, W M Mrs	78	61
Hawkins, Jim	37	21.37
Hawkins, Jim	31	.5
Inman, J F	14	26
Jackson, H H & J G Gillmire		41.1
Kerby, J J	86	33
Kirkpatrick, Unes & Nevena	71	8.75
Kirkpatrick, N F	70	23.75
Lowden, Henry	82	78
Moore, Liza	34	2.5
Parrish, Mary	13	16
Pettigrew, D H	75	55
Pettigrew, J R	89	7
Pyron, G L	73	42
Rogers, Amy Mrs	40	60
Sanders, H C & E G	58	3.
Sebring, Loraine	39	33.75
Sewell, H J	64	55
Shaw, Rebecca	60	85.25
Shaw, Rebecca	76	145
Shaw, Rebecca	47	117.9
Sipes, W J	15	11
Sipes, J H	19	36.25
Smith, Heirs	99	.75
Strawn, F L	91a	46
Surratt, Luther	30	3.5
Surratt, Jake A	41	22.5
Surratt, Jean	42	.5
Surratt, C C	29	103.5
Surratt, Jean	26	15

Surratt, John	25	12
Surratt, Logan	24	24
Surratt, Alex	23	9
Surratt, Jean	28	25
Surratt, Jack	98	3.75
Surratt, Rafe	22	3.6
Tidwell, W T	72	63.05
Vinson, C R	71	86
Vinson, E R	84	11.25
Vinson, L H	74	35
Walker, W F	43	3
White, Cora	97	6.25
White, H M	96	5
Williams, A S	45	40
Wilson, F G	81	4.5
Wilson, C L	69	120
Wilson, J H	57	50

**HONOR ROLL, WORLD WAR ONE**  
**THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FROM MCNAIRY COUNTY**  
**Taken from the works of Cordie Majors and Charles Whitlow**

Pvt Sidney Barnhill (was a black man)  
Pvt Charlie A Brown  
Pvt Etherl E Burks  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Gover Carter  
Pvt Robet L Curtis  
Pvt Logan Doles  
Pvt Lewis Erwin  
Pvt Ed Evans  
Pvt William A Forsythe  
Pvt Dolphie Haddock  
Pvt Luther G Hair  
Pvt Bernard D Hamm  
Sgt William A Hamilton  
Pvt Ban L Howard  
Pvt Oliver Hurst  
Pvt Oscar Hurst  
Pvt James W Ingle  
Pvt Lawrence Jopling  
Pvt Marvin Lee  
Pvt John McAfee  
Pvt Dee Hershall McDaniel  
Pvt Ace Mitchell  
Pvt Emmett Moore

C E Springer (no rank given on the rest)  
Albert Stovall  
Edgar Surratt  
Jimmie Thigpen  
Gilbert Walker  
Robert Avon Walker  
Lacy Joe Whitaker  
George P Wood