

# Looking Back

## McNairy County Independent

### J W Purviance, Editor

# 1902

Transcribed by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy  
Proofed and layout by Peggy Derryberry Gould

It was impossible to list everything that happened and all the people - but I tried. I did not add all the visitations, like 'Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith were visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Plunk,' or I would still be typing. I did try to list all gatherings, school and church events and obits.

I was asked once why a certain community's news was not listed and I stated that community did not have any news published. Included is all community news included in the paper, except those that just listed the visitation (as mentioned above.)

McNairy County Independent - 1902  
J W Purviance, Editor

**June 27, 1902**

This is the first paper by J W Purviance

(Note: not all ads will appear each week - just every week to show life in 1902.)

Announcement: We issue a large edition of this week's McNairy County Independent for sample copy distribution in addition to the list of subscriber. After reading this issue carefully, think about its weekly visitations to your home fifty-two times a year, and if you want to thus see it, send us \$1.00 in any legal way and you shall have it. Many old McNairians in Arkansas and Texas will greet its pages and should at once send in their subscriptions. The paper will not continue free after this issue.

A long article concerning the court-martial of Col. Jacob H. Smith recently concluded at Manila, Philippines, concerning action taken at Samar, Philippines.

Secretary Root announces the cost of the Philippine war, including outstanding obligations, up to this date, is \$170,326,586.

The kind of chickens to keep on a farm depends as much upon the kind of man who manages them. They respond fairly well to generous treatment. They are hardy, vigorous, and yield a fair return in eggs or as a table poultry.

King Albert of Saxony died on the 19<sup>th</sup>. His brother succeeds him.

Prof. Robert T. Hill, the government geologist, summarizes the terror of Mt. Pelee that erupted, without warning May 8, 1902 and destroyed the town of St. Pierre, 30,000 people.

Bigger and Abernathy have the largest and best selected stock of dry goods, hats, shoes, clothing, groceries and hardware. A building 100 feet long it crowded with goods. Located Second St. and Court Ave.

The Curry Hotel, an old established and highly respectable hotel, is now under the management of Mr. A. H. Jopling. Open all the year around. Everything clean, neat and cool. Rate, \$2 a day. Reduced rates by the week or month.

Lawyers in Selmer in 1902: Wood & Barnhill, Attorney at Law. W.K. Abernathy and Terry Abernathy, Attorney at Law. E.S. Chandler, Jr. of Corinth, Miss and F.S. Elgin, Lawyers. T.B. Whitehurst, Lawyer. J.C. Houston, Attorney-At-Law.

Election August 7, 1902. County Ticket:

Sheriff - Jack Clayton, Rep. and R.M. Carroll, Dem.

County Court Clerk - J.L. Smith, Rep. and J.A. Moore, Dem.

Circuit Court Clerk - W.J. Null, Dem.

Trustee - E.T. Cantrell, Dem. and Horry Hodges, Rep.

Register - Robert Michie, Dem and S.A. Carothers, Rep.

Salutations: This is the initial issue of the McNairy County Independent (apparently with J.W. Purviance, Editor). To many readers of the old McNairy Independent, founded by us in March 1879, this will be a pleasure, as we believe it had many warm admirers. Feeling for many years that there was still a field in McNairy County for additional newspaper usefulness, we have determined to establish a strictly first- class county newspaper at Selmer.

Selmer has a valuable college building and must have a school that is stable. (Note: college did not mean in 1902 what college means today in 2011. Probably college means school past the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.) We understand steps have been take to secure the service of an able principal and start the fall term out on a solid basis.

The supreme Court has reversed the decree of Chancellor Abernathy in the districting case of Hardin County - thus deciding that the legislature can shape up the civil districts of any county, regardless of the county court's action.

J.M. Trout in his speech Monday advocated a turn pike road from Selmer to Pittsburg Landing, and also one from Corinth to Pittsburg Landing.

Hon M.H. Meeks of Nashville, is a candidate for congress in that district.

How could one hope to establish a Republic in the Philippines that would harmonize the multitude. There are three district races, the Negrita with 21 tribes, the Indonesian with 16 tribes and the Malayan with 47 tribes.

Great surprise is shown by many as to the high price of meats, the highest prices since 1882.

The community was shocked last week by the terrible tragedy near Gravel Hill when Mr. Lee English was killed by Mr. Jessie Olive. We understand they were neighbors each having neared or passed the fifty year mile post of life. That for a trivial matter in the location of a road between their farms, such blood as seeks murder should be engendered is perfectly incomprehensible by cool headed and sober people. We are not giving any facts in inculcation or exculpation of guilt, but to call the minds of our readers in this day and age of civilized christianization should give went to such an outburst of passion. Two families thus made miserable. One man called to eternity without a moments notice and the other a fugitive from the law and when apprehended and tried for such a crime and its attending ordeals whatever the punishment may be, or even an acquittal has blasted his life and home. This bloody tragedy should be a warning for men to keep their passions under control. We sorely sympathize with both of the unfortunate families.

The M & O Railroad is putting substantial repairs along its line near Selmer. They intend to fence the road at once between here and Bethel Springs. They have paid out thousands of dollars for stock killed.

The business firms of Selmer: Jopling and Anderson Millinery, dress making and ladies goods. This firm of most excellent ladies, Mrs. J.B. Jopling and Mrs. Mary Anderson, has been conducting a prosperous business for over a year.

J.W. Prather is perhaps one of the best known merchants in the county. Mr. P. and his two sons attend as strictly to their as it is possible for men to do.

George L. Anderson. Among our old reliable merchants of Selmer can be found is G.L. Anderson. Mr. Anderson is the pioneer merchant of Selmer, coming here with the first stock of goods.

Elliott & Burke. Our readers will find a large ad of Elliott & Burke of Memphis, wholesale and retail whiskey dealers. Ike Dickey represents this strong firm and everybody knows what a hustler Mr Dickey is.

Stanford W. Gooch. We are under many obligations to S.W. Gooch for services rendered us by him getting our presses all in good running order. Mr. Gooch knows all about all kinds of

mechanical devices.

Bigger & Abernathy. Mr. Bigger has been a merchant in our town a number of years and his large business shows how he does business. Mr. Abernathy has not so long an experience, but this lack of age is made up by his mentality and rapidity in learning anything he turns his hand to.

The College Board has closed a contract with Prof. H.J. Cox of Hardin county to take the head of the college faculty at Selmer. Mrs. Cox is also secured.

Suggestions to correspondents: Write on one side of your sheet. Give Name. If there is nothing of general news, hold up that week. "Billy leaning up to Johnnie at the grave yard," is of no interest to anyone. "Mr. Jones had a chill yesterday," is not that important of an item. Deaths, marriages, serious accidents and other such matters that most readers like are desired.

The candidates for the various offices of the county will address the people at the following times and places:

Cypress Tank, July 17 Nethery's, July 18 Rose Creek, July 19 Chewalla, July 21  
Ramer, July 22 Garrett's, July 23 Gravel Hill, July 24 Caffey, July 24 Donnell  
Springs, July 25 Pebble Hill, July 25 Stantonville, July 26 Adamsville, July 28  
Leapwood, July 29 Mt Zion, July 30 Johnson's Mill, July 31 Purdy, Aug 1  
Finger, Aug 2 Kerby's, Aug 4 McNairy, Aug 5 Bethel Springs, Aug 6.

Sand Box..... Joe Adams says he is a full fledged candidate for matrimony.....T.J. Dick, a few days ago passing by Thrashers fishing pond, encountered a drove of twelve minks, killing only four with a stick.....Any lady can get a subscription to the Independent for seven spring chickens.....Why not fence in the college (Selmer school) and plant a few shade trees..... a heavy dew would almost wash away the planks which claim to be the side walk in Selmer..... James Kerby and James Maxwell are putting up a saw mill and spoke saw machinery near Jopling in the third district.....

Mr. Coe Willis on Mr. Lea's farm, on Oxford, brought to our office red cotton blooms on the 17<sup>th</sup>..... Mr. Clem Lea brought us a specimen of Chinese plumbs raised by him....fair elections; live and let live; give and forgive; build up rather than tear down will result for peace and prosperity for all.....Snow fell in Michigan on June 20 in some places it was two inches deep..... J.P. Epps was in Monday just as handsome and winning in his smile as ever.....

Blackberries are beginning to get ripe.....Dr. J.L. Smith says he expects to get enough votes to be elected county court clerk..... the grist mill whistles on Saturdays and Wednesday are loud and long.....the life that is to be, is determined by the way we live now.... It is better to feed a hungry man than to pray for him....Alexander and Tedford are getting their new carder in running shape and want your wool..... Joe Adams has joined the Dago band ..... This has been the coolest June weather known for years....P.H. Thrasher has repaired his fish pond levee..... The weeds are getting a bulge on the town of Selmer.....cotton crops north of this point to St Louis are good..... The railroad employee's annual picnic at Bethel Springs yesterday was a grand success.

Personals: you can get six family group pictures at A.H. Olive's gallery for \$1.50. The genial face of James Hamilton, of Adamsville, was to be seen among us this week. We regret to learn of the serious illness of Forrest Hendrix at his father's home on Pharr Ave. C. Graham and F.A. Barnes paid us a pleasant visit. Orpheus S. Abernathy, of the Henderson Headlight force,

paid the Independent a call. T.C. Robertson, Esq. of Enville made our office a pleasant call Monday. F.S. Elgin, P.H. Thrasher, A.C. Lee, J.G. Wilson and J.E. Williams were delegates to the State Republican Convention last week.

A.W. Stovall arrived Monday to attend court. He had just returned from Texas where he was called to the bedside of a seriously ill daughter. W.E. Parish made us a call during the week and entered his name on the Adamsville list for weekly intellectual doses. Mr. Parish is one of the old reliable farmers of Mud Creek. Warner Wyatt of Stantonville covered W.J. Sutton's subscription to the Independent. Mr. Wyatt lives in the 10<sup>th</sup> district and knows a good thing when he sees it.

J.R. Stovall, the genial merchant of Bethel, dropped in and entered his name for good reading. Mr. James Kirby, of Masseyville is the first out of town subscriber. A letter from Acton, Tenn., contains the item that Sanford Lindsey, son of W.M. Lindsey, is in the employ of the telephone company at Memphis and was seriously injured by a pole a few days ago.

W.J. Sutton, of Stantonville, one of the old reliable men of the old 9<sup>th</sup> district was among us last week. It is a pleasure to grasp the warm and genial hand of a big-hearted gentleman like Mr. Sutton. One of our subscribers of long ago, G.D. Maness, laid a foundation at Enville for others to imitate by taken a year's subscription. Prof. H.J. Cox, of Olive Hill, (Hardin Co) passed through here Tuesday.

W.A. James called to see us and ordered a year of reading. He is a republican candidate for legislature. W.A. Grant, Esq. spent a social hour with us Wed. and ordered a subscription to the Independent. He is a member of the county court and one of the leading farmers on Oxford Creek. He purchased the Tom Sanders farm.

J.E. Williams, our authorized agent in Rose Creek spent the first of the week in Selmer. Our sanctum was honored Monday by C.C. Lewter of the Telephone Company. 22 years ago last Mar., I. W. Nash, Charlie Lewter and the writer issued the first copy of the McNairy Independent. Charlie says it makes him think of the days when he was a young man and taking his first lesson as a typo.

County Supt of public instruction Mullens is proving himself a capable and worthy man to head the educational interest of the county.

Why is it that beer could be sold by the hundred of bottles at the picnic at Bethel Thursday openly and even peddled over the ground in presence of officers and no complaint, is one of the things that needs an investigation by the grand jury.

Circuit Court Proceeding: Judge Levi Wood, presiding. B.J. Howard, Attorney General. Local attorney in attendance are: Wood & Barnhill, Abernathy & Abernathy, J.C. Houston, T.B. Whitehurst, F.S. Elgin.

Grand Jury: Wood Thomas, foreman; Thomas Bassham, A.J. Garner, James Simpson, J.C. Maxwell, Taylor Crowe, J.Q. Ingram, R.C. Wagoner, L.A. Hurley, L.M. McCombs, W.W. Jopling, John Teague, W.C. Coleman. A. Swain, officer.

Petit Jury: W.L. Hurst, J.E. Curry, D.D. Hardin, Bob Campbell, N.V. Fortune, F.F. Wright, J.B. Rhodes, J.S. Ramer, Josiah Jordan, W.A. McClung, C.C. Surratt, W.J. Sutton.

Disposition of criminal cases: H.M. Wells, tippling, two cases, defendant now in penitentiary, case stricken from docket. Charley Bias, disturbing public worship, \$20 fine & cost. George Stiles, gaming \$1 fine plus cost. Steve Russell, carrying weapon, pay cost. Charley Homes, tippling, two cases, continued. Sam Tate, carrying weapon, pay cost.

State cases: State vs Gladish, carrying weapons, forfeiture on bond. State vs Wat Thomas, carrying weapons, pleaded guilty. State vs James King, carrying brass-knocks, plea of guilty. State vs John Monroe, murder. Jury considered the case until Friday and agreed upon a term of ten years in the penitentiary. This case has been twice tried and was hotly contested with a flimsy plea of insanity. It was a case of cold blooded murder of a Negro by a white man. The defendant escaped luckily with ten years. F.S. Elgin and J.C. Houston were defendant attorneys. Jury in Monroe case: John Harris, W.D. Tacker, Mont McKenzie, Dave Tacker, G.W. Plunk, G. B. Murry, A.B. Lumpkins, John Moore, J.D. Cheesier, Frank Lipford, J.B. Dickey, Sam McKenzie.

Leyn's Smallwood vs M & O Railroad dismissed by plaintiff and costs paid by defendant.

Mary Guess vs Southern Railway Co, verdict for \$25 against the defendant.

Mitchell Wade vs M & O Railroad, case continued.

Pink Wyke vs M & O Railroad, case compromised and defendant pays cost.

The grand jury returned into court an indictment for murder in the first degree against Jessie Olive for the killing of Lee English last week. As to whether an immediate trial we had is not known. If not, it is not aailable case and he will have to go to jail. This was a most brutal and unprovoked murder, as we gather from the people in Gravel Hill community where it occurred. The finding of the grand jury shows that there was no circumstances before them to warrant a lower degree than that of murder.

On Saturdays, the S.W. Gooch Grist Mill is always in operation. Customer's corn ground and returned in their own sacks.

Mobile and Ohio Railroad Schedule of Trains At Selmer: Trains North Bound: No 2: Southern Special - 8:00 am. No 4: West India Flyer - 9:57 pm. No 16: Local Freight, except Sunday - 3:15 pm. South Bound: No 1 Southern Special - 7:33 pm. No 3: West India Flyer 6:38 am. No 15: Local freight, except Sunday - 11:15am.

Church Directory: Methodist: J.L. Weaver, Pastor. Preaching second and fourth Sundays. Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock. J.W. Prather, Supt. Prayer meeting Wednesday nights.

Cumberland Presbyterian: W.J. Williams, Pastor. Preaching third Sunday. Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock. J.W. Purviance, Supt.

Christian: Preaching every first Sunday. Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock. A.C. Lea, Supt. Communion at close of Sunday School. Bible Study Thursday night.

Fraternal Societies: Masonry: Blue Lodge - Terry Abernathy, W.M. W.J. Null, Sec. Meets Friday, 7 pm on or before full moon of each month.

Knights of Pythias: Albert Gillespie, C.C; Terry Abernathy, K. R. & S. Meets every Monday night.

Woodmen of the World: S.W. Gooch, C.C; J.H. Bigger, Sec. Meets every other Friday night.

County Officials: Chairman County court - J.B. Jopling; County School Supt - J.D. Mullens; County Court Clerk - J.E. Adams; Circuit Court Clerk - W.J. Null; Sheriff - R.M. Carroll; Trustee - E.T. Cantrell; Register - J.M. Hamm; Surveyor - Frank Lock; Ranger - W.H. Braden.

Other Business Firms of Selmer: Moore & McCullar - they occupy the Coleman brick,

the most commodious store house in Selmer and their shelves are always full.

McNairy County Bank – J.R. Adams the Asst Cashier and Lewis Adams the paying teller and Lee Baysinger the bookkeeper, are three young gentlemen who cannot be excelled in the community.

Adams & Gillespie: Joe J. Adams is a bachelor, but he is not an old cheap one. Albert Gillespie is known as the clerk and master of McNairy Chancery Court.

Mitchell & Baker Livery – Messrs. Mitchell & Baker propose to furnish those who need teams with the best service. Their horses are good, their vehicles are new and clean. Their drivers polite.

Selmer Hotel: Mrs. Halstead as the head of this business has long been a friend of the traveling public.

E.F. Hendrix own an elegant brick general store. Carrying as nearly what everybody wants.

Alexander & Tedford now have their new wool carding machine in full blast turning out wool rolls. They have invested in machinery needed to take the dirty, burry wool and bring it out into fleecy long white rolls.

T.W. Tedford - A blacksmith is an important factor in the necessary economics of a community and we are glad to know that Selmer has in Tom Tedford such a man.

Selmer Milling Company - this is one of the established necessary industries of any people who raise wheat or eat any but 'Johnny Cake.' The Alexander Bros. came to Selmer as pioneers with their parents and have at all times been engaged in that which builds up a town, and all the several sons are each now engaged in some of the several industries of the town.

Perhaps a more genial and accommodating 'old man and boys' ever did business in any community than do the Emmons Bros. Livery Stable. They came here when the town was not much more than an old field and have built up a mammoth livery business. They have good horses and new rigs.

A.H. Jopling, manager of the Curry Hotel, advertising in this issue his popular hotel.

A.H. Warren, the old reliable grocery merchant carries a full line of the standard brands of canned fruits, vegetables and meat. His motto is 16 ounces in every pound and 100 cents in every dollar.

Horry Hodges write a long poem about the McNairy County Teacher's Institute. He mentions these people: Supt. Mullen, Professor Shelton, Charlie Wilkerson, Frank Lock, Will Abernathy, Gene Whitehurst, Terry Abernathy, Col. Purviance, Professor Ijams, John Erwin, Senator Houston, Willie Perkins, Arch Houston, Pugh H. Thrasher, Ernest McDaniel.

## **July 4, 1902**

### **127 Years of American Independence**

The US Cabinet last week discussed the advisability of a speedy withdrawal of the military forces from the Philippines.

It seems that the raising of the Angora goat would be just the thing for McNairy County. It thrives on scrub brushes and weeds. In addition to the value of the Angora for its skin and

flesh, the mohair they produce is the valuable annual product. It grows from six to twelve inches in a year and sells for about 40 cents per pound.

In Mississippi, where a few years ago many old cotton plantations were thrown out as worthless on account of Johnson Grass are now returning a bigger income than they ever did in cotton. Johnson Grass makes hay equal if not superior to Timothy. Ordinary three crops cut a year.

Would not a county fair in McNairy County be a good thing for everybody? Once we had one of the best fairs in the state.

Selmer might as well have a woolen mill as any point. Corinth has for some time been engaged in making cloth and now there are two or three pants factories there.

There is too much white-washing of men in official position.

It was not the crimes of perjury and false enumeration that H.C. Gooch made that is the offense in the eyes of some men, but the crime of giving away other guilty parties. If the other parties had stood to him as they agreed, or if they were not guilty with him as they claim, what induced him to give the whole thing away? His term of imprisonment will not be shorted as hour for his testimony given. Not a single inducement was offered him. It was strictly voluntary.

We believe in the home rule. The most unfortunate thing that McKinley did for the good of the public service in the South was the plan adopted of farming out the post offices and other appointments to two or three men in the state.

D.A. McDougal and J.W. Robinson on trial for census frauds at U S Court in Jackson, Tenn. McDougal and Robinson are charged with conspiracy with H.C. Gooch to falsify and pad the enumeration list of citizens living in the 6<sup>th</sup> district. H.C. Gooch was placed upon the stand. Gooch stated he was solicited by McDougal to take the enumeratorship for the 6<sup>th</sup> civil district and refused for some time but finally accepted. McDougal told him he wanted the district to bring up 2,500 inhabitants so the Dorch election law would apply and thought he was getting the best man to do it. Robinson was enumerator for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> district and he would furnish some names from his districts to go in the sixth district.

When Gooch completed the canvas he only had 1,900 names. McDougal, in Jackson, told him to take names of every family who voted in the 6<sup>th</sup> district, whether they lived in it or not. In a few days Robinson came into Gooch's store and handed him a list with 150 names on it in McDougal's hand writing. Gooch added the names on his enumerator sheets and left it in a drawer at his desk in the store and when he came back after an absence of five or six months the list was gone from the drawer. Robinson knew it was in the drawer. The list was sent in with 2,575 names.

Later Gooch got a letter from the director of the census office stating the district showed such a large increase that something must be wrong. McDougal wrote a letter for Gooch to copy, that stated that Selmer had furnished 580 citizens and the country around was not thickly settled and also that large additions came from changing the district lines adjoining.

Under cross examination, Gooch tried to show that he did not do any intentional wrong in his reenumeration but finally admitted he inserted more names than he should have. Many persons having only a garden were put down with a farm showing more fraud.

Dan Gooch and his sister testified said the list of 125 names was in a drawer as stated by Gooch and abstracted therefrom by certain parties who knew it was there. The trial will probably not be concluded until the first of next week.

Circuit Court Proceedings: George Johnson, larceny, three months in county jail.

M.B. King, false pretenses, nolle prossed.

Jessie Olive, murder, defendant admitted to bail on \$2000 bond.

Roach vs Roach, divorce, decree granted.

Bigger & Abernathy vs M B King, replevin, judgment for plaintiff for property replevined.

Special report of grand jury to Hon L.S. Woods, Judge of Circuit Court: We find the prisoners are well and humanely treated. We respectfully ask for another cell to be provided so white and colored prisoners can be kept separate. Wood Thomas, foreman.

From the editor: the grand jury report seems to indicate the county jail has but one cell for prisoners and whites and colored are all shut up together. If our memory is not defective, the jail has two if not three separate and distinct cells.

Geo. L. Anderson Dry goods is located in the big Thrasher Brick on the corner of Second and Court Ave.

Sand Box..... this is the glorious fourth and yet our people hardly realize that such is the case. We used to have old fashioned barbecue in McNairy on the great National holiday....

J.J. Adams brought to our office an Irish Potato that weighed 3/4 of a pound....

McNairy, Hardin, and adjoining counties visited Jackson this week in the famous census fraud trial.....

FS. Elgin was sworn in as U S Marshall...

The wind on last Saturday blowed trees and fences in a most reckless manner. The wind damaged the C P Church here by badly springing the back end wall, making a rend in the ceiling. The wind blew on Thrasher old barn and great was the fall of it.....

The war in the Philippines is declared over except in one little section of the islands...

The office of the Independent is in the old Racket Storehouse for the present, call and see us opposite Prather's brick store....

The first bale of cotton was received in Houston, Texas on July 1.....

Truth and honesty will stand the test in life, even in political life.

Smith, Carroll and Cantrell with J.J. Adams holding the ribbons, left this morning to celebrate at Cypress Tank. Terry Abernathy, P.M. Crocker and probably others joined them on the way.....

Capt Hunter with his conference coat was seen going to the depot this morning for Jackson.....

We are glad to know that Forrest and Buford Hendrix are improving, though they are still very sick with fever.....

The colored contingent headed by Clark Kindel are holding a barbecue near Selmer today...

Why does not some one start an electric light plant in Selmer? The town would warrant this modern convenience....

The colored barbecue today was a rather monotonous until a difficulty of some days ago was renewed between Luther Pharr and Clark Hurst. It seems Pharr was trying to get up a row when Hurst struck at him two or three times with a pocket knife. One stroke entered the left side of the base of the head, making the blood fly. Hurst made his escape, followed by Pharr, but it was thought he had no desire to catch Hurst. It might have been a killing if the knife had struck

an inch lower and ranged across the neck as it was evidently intended.

Personals: Prof. Freed was here Thursday looking up letter from J.N. Hall about the Hicks debates. J.C. Maxwell left a receipt for a years subscription. Dr. J.M. Mitchell of Corinth was called to the bedside of Forrest Hendrix and spent a couple of days here. Mrs. A.C. Lea and Mrs. Minnie Rice left for Austell, Ga to attend the funeral of the infant son, age 6 months, of Mr. and Mrs. Will Lea.

Our old friend Abe Lipford called for a sample copy. We are glad to see Uncle Abe still in the ring with a prospect as he says, for many hogs and much hominy. We regret to learn that Mrs. Ida Parish of San Antonio, Texas is very ill and her mother, Mrs. M.E. Phillips, of our city, left to be by her bed-side.

Mr. Ephram Chamness brought to town this week 250 pounds of country hams, averaging 30 pounds each. A.C. Lea, our efficient postmaster, not only handles the mails but represents Royal Tailors of Chicago.

David N. Kerby, died at his home in the third district on the 21 of June. Mr. Kerby was a victim of consumption and has been confined for several months. He was well known as an efficient deputy Marshall. He has many relatives and friends who mourn his death.

Capt. J.L.W. Boatman called to tell us about his barbecue on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Sulphur Springs. He gives it in celebration of his 72 mile post. Everybody invited.

Rev. Cal Stump, son of J.W. Stump, preached last Sunday in the Baptist church two very fine sermons. The young minister has been attending the Baptist School in Jackson for the past year.

M.W. Flemming, special agent of Cumberland Telephone Co. visited our town trying to enlist enough patrons to put up a telephone service in the town. He did not get enough subscribers to warrant the beginning. Our town never will amount to anything unless the people take hold of everything like this which would develop into larger things in the future. Mr. Flemming proposed to put in a telephone system, complete with day and night service and Sunday service. Selmer should have a telephone service.

Jopling & Anderson - Fine Millinery Goods - We make a specialty of dress making and can do your work on very short notice. Mrs. J.B. Jopling and Miss Mary Anderson.

Selmer High School, open for ten months beginning Sept 1, 1902. Instruction thorough in all department. Faculty: H.J. Cox, Principal. J.D. Mullins, County Superintendent, Assistant and Mrs. H.J. Cox, primary dept.

Our County Candidates: Dr. J.L. Smith is a candidate for County Court Clerk. The office of the county Court Clerk is the most important office in the county. They must exercise judicial as well as ministerial and clerical duties. With his experience in business and his age, the doctor can learn the duties of this office.

W.J. 'Jack' Clayton is a candidate for sheriff. He is well known in the county, fearless and true to his convictions of the right.

E.T. Cantrell seeks re-election to office of County Trustee. We take pleasure in saying we have not a complaint by any one of his administration. He is a Christian gentleman.

Mr. R.A. Carrothers is a candidate for Register of the county. We misspelled his name last week. He is a gentleman of good moral and scholarship and eminently qualified for Register. We do not believe there is a man in the county his superior with a pen.

Mr. R.M. Carroll is a candidate for re-election as sheriff. He has served two terms. Mr.

Carroll is a clever gentleman and has made a faithful officer so far as we know.

R.W. Michie is also a candidate for Register. We have known Mr. Michie for thirty years and always found him a clever gentleman.

J.A. Moore is a candidate for County Court Clerk. He is a man of push and energy and having made what he is by hard study and industrious habits. He is young and active.

Hon. W.K. Abernathy announces himself as the democratic nominee for a seat in the next legislature.

Horry Hodges, the tall black-jack of the 8<sup>th</sup> district is a candidate for Trustee. It hardly described Horry to say he is from the eighth district as he is claimed by almost everyone in the community as their Horry.

The US Collector of Internal Revenue Service has announced the Fifth Division will be composed of Hardeman, Madison, Chester, McNairy, Decatur, Henderson, Carroll, Benton, Henry, Weakly and Gibson. The headquarters of the division deputy, C.H. Timberlake, will be in Lexington.

A bulletin has been issued in provisions of an act of congress Mar 3, 1901, requiring common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to make full report of all accidents to the interstate commerce commission. The three months ending Sept 1, 1901, there were 240 killed and 2,622 injured in collisions, derailments and miscellaneous train accidents.

## July 11, 1902

The coal strike in Pennsylvania has been going on for about two months.

A statement prepared by Senator Allison, chairman of the committee on appropriations shows the total appropriations for the year total \$800,193,837. This includes departments such as military, pensions, post offices, etc.

Congress has passed that no package of manufactured tobacco, snuff, cigars or cigarettes shall have attached any representation or promise of a ticket or chance in any lottery or an immoral picture. It will prohibit prizes offered by nearly all tobacco manufactures awarded by presentation of specified number of tags or box wrappers.

At a recent session of congress 10,700 pension bills were introduced.

1300 miners employed by the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company at the Tracy City and Whitwell mines, have struck for higher wages. They want the same scale as is paid by the company at its Alabama mines.

August 7, 1902, county election ticket: Sheriff: Jack Clayton (R), R.M. Carroll (D). County Court Clerk: J.L. Smith (R), J.A. Moore (D) . Circuit Court Clerk: W.J. Null (D) . Trustee: E.T. Cantrell, (D), Horry Hodges ( R). Register Robert Michie (D) R.A. Carothers ( R). Representative: W.K. Abernathy.

Every county ought to own a couple of blood hounds to help find criminals. The proposition to appropriate \$50 to defray the expenses of sending for bloodhounds when a crime was committed was properly voted down by the county court.

The enumeration frauds would not have been committed if the census law had not been changed. Heretofore, the enumerators were required to file a census copy with the county court

clerk's office. Gooch & Co. would not have dared do what they did had the lists been filed for public inspection in a home office.

The new US Marshall Elgin will have a hard road to travel. He would like to appoint one man from his home town as his confidential clerk, but has orders from McCall that a man by the name of Lancaster, who has failed as a saloon keeper must have the job and the 9<sup>th</sup> district must have a man and lo and behold, there are no other jobs.

It seems the 6<sup>th</sup> district is in quite a dilemma. The State law says the Dorch election law shall apply to all civil districts which by a preceding federal census shows a population of 2500 or over. The late census as published puts in on Gooch's false enumeration at 2575. When the census was retaken it showed 1900. The question is how to correct the matter for the August election. We suppose the county election commissioners will have to decide.

There was quite a little collision on the M & O Railroad Tuesday morning about a mile north of Selmer. A banana train going north met an engine going south on a short curve and both being on the same track. Result: two badly damaged engines, one banana car slightly damaged, the engineer on south-bound engine fired for all time for not observing his orders to remain at Bethel, general stoppage of all traffic and mails Tuesday and about \$5,000 damage to the company.

J.R. Wesson, Esq. - gave notice at the October County Court meeting he would bring before the court the question of the court adopting the three wire as a legal fence. By reference to the Statute we find the vote making such order must be made at the January meeting. The law says the fence can be wire or plank but gives other specifications. In many instances an old sow and pigs have cost many a farmer hundreds of dollars a year.

McNairy County Bank, a branch of Merchants State Bank of Humboldt. Capital - \$83,000.00.

Free! We will give you free, one piece of beautiful glass ware, worth 25 cents for every dollars worth of business you do with us in the next 60 days. Williams Bros., Rose Creek, Tenn.

Rather a racy divorce suit is on in Memphis in which a former belle of McNairy cuts a big figure as the wife of an old gentleman by the name of Hickok. She failed to get either a divorce or alimony.

The protracted meeting of the C. P. Church published for the third Sunday has been indefinitely postponed.

Typhoid fever is epidemic in Nashville and everyone is advised not to drink water until it has been boiled.

J.B. Hicks is the champion watermelon grower so far.

Teacher's monthly meeting was held July 5. Some teachers mentioned: Jim Shelton, J.E. Williams, Louis Ellis, John Ervin, C.A. Morphis, George Blasingame E.L. Whitehurst.

Johnstown, Penn, of 1889 flood calamity, was visited by a coal mine explosion Thursday, resulting in the death of 200-300 miners.

Proceeding of County Court, July Term, 1902: Terry Abernathy was elected to fill the place of F.S. Elgin as expert account for the county court. Dr. Carter was elected health officer by the county court. J.L. Johnston was appointed administer of L.H. Johnson. Bond \$300.

District line between 13<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> district was changed as follows: Commencing at bridge or burton place, thence up creek to mouth of Ruleman branch in the old field in the road on the line of the 13<sup>th</sup> district east of Sam Hockaday's place; thence east out said road to



## July 18, 1902

Mrs. Nancy Jones, a Revolutionary War Pensioner, died last week at her home near Jonesboro, Tenn. Her death leaves only two persons on the pension roll of that war. In 1832, when 16 years old she married Darling Jones, then 68 years old, who was a Revolutionary War Soldier. He died in 1848. She had two sons in the Civil war on the Union side and a grandson in the Spanish American War. She, her sons and grandson drew pensions from wars covering a period of 119 years.

Daniel Long, a farmer living near Thorn Grove, Tenn, was killed by lightning in a wheat field while the sun was shining brightly. The lightning came from a small cloud. A farm hand was also badly shocked. Long's clothing was burned from his body, his wagon burned and one mule killed.

The man who is provident enough to plant a second crop of Irish potatoes and has a good turnip patch will be well provided for winter living.

Adams & Gillespie, The Leading Family Grocery Store of Selmer.

Selmer Milling CO - W.H. Alexander, Pres, U.S. Alexander, Treas.

George L. Anderson Dry Goods, Shoes, Groceries.

The presiding elder, Bro. Walters, spent Tuesday hunting on Moss Creek with TN. Bell, the great bear hunter of the county. Bro. Prather's cow got into Bro. Maxedon's cornfield this week and jumping out fell into a ditch and died.

The public artesian well seems to supply almost the whole town with excellent water.

Why not the chairman of the street committee have the brickbats and other rubbish removed from Court Ave.

An addition is being made to the C P church by putting up an annex for the choir in the rear of the rostrum. It will greatly improve the inside appearance of the church.

Tedford has been thronged at his shop this week setting wagon tires.

Watermelons, muskmelons and other sorts of melons are abundant now on our streets.

Why not get up a tomato and truck garden interest here equal to that of Humboldt. We will give ten acres of first class land free of rent to any man who will engage in this business next year.

A man by the name of Walker from Wenasoga was arrested in Memphis last week and brought back to the county on the charge of general disturbance in Chewalla.

T.N. Bell will learn by sad experience not to shoot at quails from a wagon attached to a team, results of such thoughtlessness a runaway team, skinned up the presiding elder.

The town was alarmed Thursday morning by the squalling of every yellow leg in the vicinity - the Methodist preachers are here.

J.J. Adams, P.M. Crocker, Chester Scott, William Browder, Lee Basinger and Adams Smith took in the Birmingham excursion Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly left for Nashville where he will take a position in the railroad service.

J.R. Wesson of Adamsville, Frank Adams, Fletcher Scott, and Cherley Parrish headed for the excursion in Birmingham.

W.M. Brown has been appointed deputy US Marshall for Chester, Henderson and McNairy Counties.

J.E. Mitchell, from near Jopling, was in Monday armed himself with 'the people's

choice.' Mr. Mitchell is one of the numerous sons of Dr. J.H. Mitchell, well known to McNairians.

The friends and acquaintances of Esq. Fayette Hurst, of the 13<sup>th</sup> district, will be surprised to learn of his sudden death Wednesday. We understand that he sick only two or three days. Esq. Hurst was reliable member of the county court and a men of honest, upright principles and habits. His loss in the county where he has taught many schools will be keenly felt.

Bethel Springs community: Farmers are about done work and nearly ready to come to town and 'gas' with the boys. Bob Motley, Bob Tally and Ray Epps of Bethel Springs, and Victory Robertson of Rose Creek, made a trip to Birmingham, Ala this week. They report a good time. Meeting at Chapel Hill next Monday and Tuesday, morning and night. If you want a cold drink, you can get it at Mr. Moss's ice cream parlor. He always meets you with a smile. Signed George.

J.W. Prather and E.H. Prather, A.S. Prather, Associates, is offering a special bargain in shoes, hats and clothing.

### July 25, 1902

Arrangements are under way for the annual reunion of the Sixth and Seventh Tennessee Cavalry, which is to be held at Finger, on the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, Sept. 18, 1902.

Where are the judges and clerks to come from to hold an election under the Dorch law in Selmer? The law requires qualified voters. Is there a qualified voter under the Dorch law in the district? The plans for defeating the vote of the people becomes more black, dangerous and damning at every step that is taken.

Considering the complications that have been brought about by an attempt to bring the Selmer district under the provisions of the Dorch law by fraud, it is suggested that the candidates by written agreement all consent to have the election held in the usual way. This would give universal satisfaction and would stop any lawsuit. The plan to open the polls here under the mode of the Dorch law, knowing not a voter is registered and can vote, for the express purpose of preventing voters from voting in other districts, will be a fraud that is and should be condemned by every honest man.

Land Transfers: J.F. Sanders and wife to H.A. Hunter, 30 acres, consideration \$250.

A.T. Spring to J.W. Springer, 69 ac, \$630.

D.R. Hurst was in Selmer Thursday and took out letters of administration on the estate of his brother, the late Esq. Fayette Hurst.

Prof .Burks, teacher of Hardin County has been here getting up a class. He has secured enough students to begin his work Monday. We remember the time about 35 years ago when a small boy, he lost both his hands in a sorghum mill, and Dr. Berry and Dr. Kindel and others amputated them.

The easiest way to save corn for the winter feed. Many farmers say they cannot save corn in the shock. Cut it when the shuck is turning and about ½ the blades are dry. Put it in shocks of 16 hills square setting it up carefully and pressing the tops close together and always toward the center of the shock. Complete in 3-4 days.

To cure a kicking heifer, tie a rope around one hind leg near the foot and then take a slip around the horns. Now let her kick to her heart's content. Then shift over to the other side. One dose will be enough for her. For a colt put on a surcingle with a ring on the side to slip the rope through. Hitch first around the neck and then a noose around the nose.

Bethel Springs community: Mr. James Moss is very sick with fever this week. Bob Talley got his foot badly cut on a plow Monday. Mr. Wess Hester brought a fine load of watermelons to town Saturday and sold them. Mr. Hester said he would have swelled his pocketbook, but the black crows and white rogues got the first swell. Mr. J.P. Epps is having his gin saw sharpened. T.V. Moos, John Ammons and J.R. Dismukes are the only men in town that can smoke cigars every day in the week.

Acton Community: the picnic at the Chalybeate Springs on the 18<sup>th</sup> was a success. The crowd was estimated at 1,500 people. They were addressed by Hon P H Thrasher and Will K Abernathy of Selmer. We were complimented on having the nicest picnic grounds in McNairy County.

Albert Doss' house and contents were burned on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup>. They were away from home that night.

Mrs. Jno. Grissby was burned very badly by the explosion of a lamp last week. Her clothes were burned from her body.

J .P. Atkins and family visited kinfolk near old Purdy last week.

Drs. C. Kendrick, Mitchell and C.C. Howell attended the picnic at Chalybeate Springs last week.

Button Burks will soon have Dr. John J. Abernathy's dwelling finished.

Marriage Licenses: Eddie Vayles to Mattie Robertson

H.M. McAnnally to Fanny Goforth

T.M. Tuck to Fanny Heardie

C.B. Nagle to Minnie Hill

A.J. Jarnagen to Q.O. Baker

The Curry Hotel under the management of Mr. A.H. Jopling: Rates \$2 a day.

Selmer Hotel, Mrs. M.M. Halstead, proprietress. \$1 a day. Meals 25 cents per meal.

Bargains in lands, now is the time to buy a home. I have several tracts of land to sell.

See J.W. Purviance.

Sand Box.... the 19<sup>th</sup> district will cast a big vote this season. You know, perhaps that they have knocked the old 6<sup>th</sup> into smithereens.... Remember the voters of the county have the privilege of voting except in the 6<sup>th</sup> district. What do honest voters of the county think of an effort by fraudulent enumeration to handicap the voter, and when that cannot be worked to hold no election at all, and hereby entirely disfranchise 300-400 people.....

Capt. Powers shipped one of his saw mills to Decatur county Tuesday.....

A number of our people went to Falcon to hear the candidates orate Tuesday.

Mr. Joe Meek of Adamsville died Tuesday of consumption. He was a good man. ..

The sick of the community seem to be improving. Slow fever seems to be pretty general in all sections.... Mr. Wesley McDaniel of Adamsville is dangerously ill from blood poisoning brought on by a rat bite on his finger.....

It is suggested by some of our merchants that they all agree to close up at night when the school begins, in order to prevent loafing places for the students. J.J. Adams, the charming bachelor has enough tomatoes in his garden for the whole town.

Protracted meetings are now soon to begin in almost every neighborhood.....yesterday the town seemed almost deserted by everybody, they were attending Sulphur Springs picnic.....

Personals: Eugene Whitehurst is teaching at Morphis school-house. He has 16 scholars. Mrs. Emma Brooks has been sick with what is called continued fever.

Hon. A.W. Stovall was one of the orators of the Boatman picnic Thursday. W.A. Gooch was in Monday making repairs on one of his numerous buildings in Selmer. The 'squire' is still as happy and jovial as ever. Forrest Hendrix is recovering from his slow fever. Our friend Dr. Jim Curry of Finger was among friends in Selmer Monday. Prof. Cox is in town working up all the preliminaries for opening of the Selmer school on Sept 1.

T.A. Tedford Blacksmith - Horse Shoeing a Specialty.

Bigger and Abernathy - Dry Goods, Hats, Shoes, Clothing, Groceries, Hardware.

Boys can make money selling 'The Saturday Evening Post.'

### August 1, 1902

Hint or two for husbands - guaranteed to promote domestic tranquility:

Trust your friend with your money if you choose, but not your wife.

If you marry for beauty only don't get mad when that transitory quality fades.

If you are not faultless, do not demand that in your mate.

If you marry for money be content with your salary and don't expect to have all other things 'thrown in.'

Don't be anxious to 'get even' when your wife disappoints you in some way. Perhaps you have been a disappointment to her.

If you marry simply to get a cook don't demand intellectual companionship, too, unless you give the dear woman time to develop.

Don't imagine for a moment that you have a monopoly on the contents of the knowledge box. Most married women know at least two or three things.

The Greatest World's Fair the world has ever seen will be held at St Louis in 1904.

The pastures for cattle and horses every one must have now. The day is past for cattle and other stock roaming at will all over other mens' land and continually menacing every man's crop. There are old hills and bottom enough in McNairy County to support twice as much stock if they were fenced. Much discussion is made over the law for a three wire fence.

Trains leave Selmer going North at 8:11 am, 9:57 pm, 3:14 pm except on Sunday.

Trains leave Selmer going South at 7:30 pm, 6:38 am and 11:15 am except Sunday.

Sandbox..... Is it not time for the road supervisor to see about working the roads? Some of them are almost impassable..... The M & O Railroad is scattering posts between Bethel and Selmer to fence their tracks. This should have been done 20 years ago.... Soon there will be several free mail delivery routes in the county. This will be a great convenience to the people along the lines.

L.A. Lockman is putting up quite an improvement to the back of Hotel Selmer, in the

form of porches and kitchens..... Uncle Sam has been testing the biggest gun ever made, it is 40 feet and 16 inches long and shoots 21 miles .... From the Memphis papers we see that H.C. Gooch intends to resume his former business in Selmer when his times expires.

The candidates are speaking at Purdy today.... Why is McNairy County republican in general election and democratic in county elections.... J.T. Warren took a seven mile tramp on the old farm of his childhood Wednesday and the next morning moved like an old string halted percheron.

Round trip from Selmer to St Louis \$12.00 and Chicago \$14.30 on the M & O Train.

Monday morning as the northbound passenger train was entering Corinth, two Negro men, a woman and a child in a two-horse wagon got so near the crossing that they tried to rush across and the engine struck the wagon, killing the two men and fatally injuring the woman and child. It was certainly bad judgment for such an attempt to be made. We shall not be surprised to learn of a similar thing at the north crossing at Selmer.

The case of J.R. Adams vs J.H. Reed was argued before Chancellor Hawkins and carried over until December.

Marriage licenses: J.H. Amason to H.M. Amason  
E.P. Prince to Mary Campbell  
J.S. Gray to Mary L. Flanagin.

Personals: Thursday is election day. County Supt. Mullens is holding an examination here today. Miss Birdie Hurley of Chewalla is attending the examination by Supt. Mullens today. After a spell of three weeks, H.C. Taylor is up and on the streets. Dr. Parnell has moved his dentist practice to Florence, Ala.

P.M. Mitchell came in with a load of wheat Thursday and left with a load of good flour and excellent reading matter for the future. Mr. Ben Darby was in Wednesday with a load of fine apples and peaches. He is quite a horticulturist.

The hustling 'drummer boy' F.M. Freeman was among our merchants Thursday. He took orders from eight of them for his line of tobacco. He reports there is no hope for Wesley McDaniel's recovery. Two of his married daughters, Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Parrish are not improving much.

Every woman has backaches, nervous weakness, headaches, heartburn or indigestion caused by constipation should take Prickly Ash Bitters - it will cure you.

Absolute Security - Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills for headache, dizziness, biliousness, torpid liver, constipation, and sallow skin.

More is given on the Dorch law. Mr. Carroll, democrat candidate for sheriff, attacks the Dorch law. He certainly has not forgotten that the Dorch law is strictly a democrat measure, made and publicly proclaimed to be intended to cut out the Negro vote and the ignorant white vote of East Tennessee, which is so strongly republican.

The Dorch law was amended by the last legislature to apply to all towns of 700 population and counties of 15,000. Every democrat voted for it and every republican voted against it.

The Census Frauds - Startling Expose of the Dorch Law and those engage in census frauds. A letter from H.C. Gooch: "Permit me space in your paper to speak a word in my own

defense. I am here (apparently in jail in Memphis) for the efforts I made to advance the cause of the democratic party, and as I ought to have known in the beginning, every democrat who aided and encouraged me to do what I did are now loudest in denouncing me for the act. I acknowledge that I helped to get the county redistricted so that the sixth district would come under the Dorch law by an act of the legislature, and there are more than 100 democrats in the sixth district who were in sympathy with the plan.

Bob Carroll and E.T. Cantrell, if I am not mistaken, signed a telegram to Bill Malone, who was at that time a member of legislature from McNairy County to have the bill passed to redistrict the county.

Both Carroll and Cantrell know that they had talks with me at different times before and during the taking of the census, and both know they urged me to bring the census of the sixth district up to 2,500 if there was a possible chance to do so. They both knew that I did it at the earnest solicitation of themselves, McDougal and others of the district whom I could name.

And now that it has all come out they are playing honest, virtuous, anti-Dorch law democrats, and are doing everything in their power to make me bear all the responsibility.” Letter written July 30, 1902.

R.M. Carroll, Sheriff and E.T. Cantrell, Trustee write a letter that ‘we have known H.C. Gooch for many years and have always regarded him as an honest and honorable man. We deeply sympathize with him in the trouble in which he is involved and heartily recommend him the kindness and favor of all with whom he has come in contact. He has been a justice of the peace and notary public for many years, and has also been mayor of Selmer several times.” This letter was signed October 29, 1901.

Another letter was written by E.T. Carroll on Oct 31, 1901, with about the same information.

### **August 8, 1902**

News of the World: Tracey, the outlaw who escaped from the Oregon penitentiary several weeks ago, is still at large. Tracey declares he wants to hold up a bank or rob and express car. He says he promised \$5,000 to those who helped him escape. He is making his way to the ‘hole in the wall’ county in Wyoming. When there, he declares he will be a thief among thieves and will be safe. He escaped from the penitentiary killing three guards and six men trying to capture him. His life finally came to an end by his own pistol after he had been mortally wounded.

Bill Taylor who held up the Santa Fe Pacific train in Texas and killed two men has also held up a Mexican Central Train and secured \$50,000 from the Wells-Fargo express. He has been captured and sentenced to death for the murder of the two men.

Several funerals had to be postponed because of a strike of grave diggers in Chicago.

We are glad there is not a man in McNairy County who does not favor the Dorch election law. The only democratic organ in the county says so, and being a strictly democratic issue for 15 years, now one could say that a single republican in the whole State, much less in McNairy County, now or ever did favor it. (It is hard to believe that the editor of the paper could say that

no Republican was ever in favor of the Dorch law. Did he know every Republican in the state personally?)

A trustee, democrat or republican who does not collect every cent of taxes (poll tax) he can from the individual tax payer, does not do his duty, and we shall see that they are exposed if it occurs again. It is a custom and not of recent origin that they are content to get the taxes from anyone who pays it. The custom has become an abomination to all men who like to stand up as an American citizen and pay his taxes and then vote regardless of the dictation of the candidate whom he has sold his birthright for \$2.00.

The custom that has obtained in this county of poll tax payers neglecting to pay their taxes, expecting candidates and the party leaders to pay them, is reprehensible. The blame lies at the door of the trustee and his deputies who have the collecting of delinquent poll taxes. We have heard that officers have told delinquents not to pay their taxes, as the candidates would pay them, and return their books. An officer who does that is liable to a prosecution. The collecting officers can collect 95% of delinquents if they would do their duty.

The Dorch law: Many of our people have been inducted to believe that the Dorch law in Tennessee is what is know as the Australian ballot in the Northern states and that it originated in the northern states. But whether it is through ignorance of the leaders who favor the Dorch law or through a desire to deceive the people, we do not know.

The Dorch law was introduced in Tennessee legislature about 15 years ago, by a man of that name from Fayette county. The expressed, avowed and only purpose of which was to disfranchise the Negroes in large cities. The scheme was to get up a system of voting which in effect was an educational qualification. The voter's ticket under the Dorch law, contains the name of every candidate of all the parties, and to be printed to alphabetically, or under any party name or insignia and the candidate to be voted for is to have after his name an X. The ticket is handed to the voter in the booth, and a pencil furnished him to mark the same. No one is permitted to help him. He must be able to read the name in order to mark them. He must know the names from memory or be aided by a slip surreptitiously taken in the booth with him.

No other State in the Union has such a law as the Dorch law.

The Australian ballot, now in use in the Northern States, has printed upon it the name of each candidate in a separate column and not mixed together. At the head of each ticket there is an emblem, easily recognized: Republican would have a flag emblem; Democrat - rooster; the populite, a plow; etc. A man knows his picture whether he can read or not.

Marriage Licenses: A.A. Jarnigan to Elizabeth Gray

J.A.F. Larue to Annie Garner

Sol Erwin to Mattie Roberts

John J. Pounds to Idelia Cooksey.

Now is the time to cut out fence corners, and ditch and creek banks. A close, clean cut and carefully burned in a few days will improve the looks of a farm more than any one thing.

The mule buyer will be among us for the purpose of buying mules. The buyers wants fat mules. So those that have mules to sell should be having them out of the sun and stuffing them with green corn and use curry comb.

Every day almost, we are asked the question, 'why do the people of McNairy not get up a County Fair?' It's time to think this matter over and begin operations in the early spring for a fair next fall.

Rose Creek Correspondence: Picnic and big meetings are the order of the day. The protracted meeting at Sandy Flat began Sunday with a splendid crowd in attendance. The big meeting at this place will begin the third Sunday in the month. J.B. Hicks returned recently from a trip to Texas. Col. Hatch, the famous vocalist, will begin teaching at Hooper's school house in a few days. The three-wire fence law seems to be arousing considerable interest among the farmers. Some favor its adoption while others oppose it.

Land transfers:

J.W. Pickens and wife to W.N. Sanders and F.M. Freeman, one lot in Adamsville, \$300.

Richard Gooch and wife to P.N. Coleman, 140 acres, \$248

G.R. Harrison and wife to S.H. Leath, town lot in Adamsville, \$125

The following are delegates to the Congressional Convention which meets at Jackson, Aug 14, 1902: Major James, J.R. Wesson, Tobe Walker, J.G. Wilson, F.S. Elgin, P.H. Thrasher, J.E. Williams, W.M. Crabtree, A.C. Lea, W.M. Ferrell, Andrew Garner, Dr. G. Sanders, Terry Abernathy, Horry Hodges, Doug Parrish, J.A. McCaskill, J.W. Purviance.

Sand Box..... One can see about as much tricking among candidates and politicians a few hours before a county election as he should see in a life time.... there were about 400 unpaid poll taxes before the election. Most of them were paid by candidates and friends..... Sow your turnip seed now while the ground is moist and we will have turnips and pig meat by early frost.... fifty new subscribers in one week to the McNairy County Independent.

Personals: New subscribers: J.L. Alexander of Adamsville, Esq. J.L. Lain of the 8<sup>th</sup> district, J.C. Hair of the 11<sup>th</sup> district, C.C. Plunk, one of the modern farmers of the county; W.P. Littlefield of Adamsville; Alvin and Neely Graham; Esq. T.H. Plunk from Jopling; WW. Turner of Bethel.

Mr. Carothers, who moves here for the benefit of the school will occupy the Dr. Atkins' house on Cypress Ave.

J.L. 'Jeems' Littlefield showed up Monday before the election.

W.J. Sutton, the old democratic standby of the 9<sup>th</sup>, was on hand Monday. His opinion then was the victory was with the side who paid up the taxes.

James Kerby, of Masseyville, complained he did not get his paper until Monday. He says the northbound night trains does not put off mail at McNairy, hence the delay. We do not see how to remedy it. W.R. Anderson left Tuesday for a position with the E C railroad in Memphis.

Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Gooch had a family reunion Wednesday in which all their children present. Prof. Cox, new principal of Selmer High School, moved into the Houston residence on Pharr Avenue. Sol Plunk returned Monday of Oklahoma and the west.

There was a colt show in Selmer Monday with 12 entries in several categories. Winners were: Frank Milstead, T.P. Ramer, Jobe Maxedon, James Shannon. Judges were W.A. Reeder, H.D. Crimer, Capt. Sinclair, Bob Waggoner and W.P. Carothers.

The gathering at Finger last Saturday as very pleasant and enjoyable occasion. The weather was fine, the dinner good and the people happy. Glad to see a few old pioneers of the former days: Dr. Job Bell, W.B. Malone, J.A. Miller, Sid Plunk, John Aldridge, Finnis Miller, C. McCann, W.I. Allen and Mose Kirkpatrick. Several are octogenarians.

A Teacher's Institute will be held at Finger on Aug 16. Several topics will be covered by: J.T. Pickens, Supt. Mullens, Horry Hodges, Arch Houston, Eugene Whitehurst, Frank Lock, J.W. Robinson, J.H. Etheridge, C.B. Ijams, M.A. James, James Shelton, A.K. Hamm, G.H. Pool,

Wm. Littlejohn, C.V. Brown, Fielding Maness, C.E. Wilkerson, H.J. Cox, Miss Maggie Hodges, Miss Dennis Pickens.

E.F. Hendrix - A General store - Carrying as nearly what everybody wants as it is possible to do. In addition to all kinds of Dry Goods, Shoes, Hardware, Tinware and Groceries, we carry a full line of Furniture, Carpets, Window Shades, etc. and all grades of Caskets, Coffins and Burial Robes.

Mention has been made within the last few months of a process of drying skimmed milk, invented by Dr. M. Ekenburg, in Sweden. This has attracted a lot of attention in America.

### **August 15, 1902**

Tabulated Vote in the county election:

Sheriff: R.M. Carroll 1559 (winner) and Jack Clayton 1522

County Court Clerk: J.A. Moore (winner) and J.L. Smith 1525

Register of Deeds: R.A. Carothers 1618 (winner) and R.W. Michie 1502

Trustee Horry Hodges 1580 (winner) and E.T. Cantrell 1522

Circuit Court Clerk: W.J. Null 1697, no opposition

Magistrates elected: 13<sup>th</sup> District – E.H.T. Garrett;

3<sup>rd</sup> District – T.J. Sipes;

18<sup>th</sup> District – J.L. Meeks.

The Republicans of Alabama are said to be contemplating putting a full ticket in the field. The Negro element has been entirely eliminated by the Democratic new constitution. (The editor said in last week's edition that Tennessee was the only state that had done this.)

From the reports coming in from the different districts, we are more impressed than ever that there must be a remedy for the payment of poll taxes in order to vote. We shall continue to urge the trustee in the future will appoint deputies to collect delinquent taxes. The way the custom has obtained no man can run for an office who has not several hundred dollars to pay taxes with, if he hopes to win. This is not fair for candidates who are not so fixed, and it is not right for those who are able, to pay the debt of others who are able to pay for themselves.

The election commissioners on Monday when they met and began to examine the returns of judges of the various districts found that many were incomplete. In many instances the name of the office which the man was voted for does not appear on the returns. They stopped their compiling and sent for the judges to come in and amend their returns. This caused quite a number to make a trip to Selmer. We suggest the county court to have a lot of blank returns and certificates printed and furnished for elections.

There is invented a wireless telegraph machine which can be used under five miles at a small cost. A wire is attached to each machine and connected to the earth. Such an invention will be the greatest convenience in the way of transmitting thought among the people ever invented.

The farmers and they alone, are directly interested in the fence question. We harp about railroad combinations and manufacturers' trusts and yet we never get an idea for ourselves, but go on in the same old groove the fathers did. The northern and prosperous counties of this State have taken the step forward and adopted the three wire fence and now see what a great saving it

is. But poor old McNairy will still follow the old foggy ideas of former days, which was right then, but owing to changed conditions is not now.

The first row barbed wire is to be 18 inches from the ground, and the other stands 18 inches from each other.

Sand Box.....road work was begun Monday by Mr. Weeks leading north from Adams street..... the sorghum crop will be fine, but there is not a large crop planted.....W.K. Olive, J.W. Robinson, and C.C. Graham, comprising the election commission of the county, met Monday to make an official summing up.... Farmers now holding old corn for a big price will see it sell on the street by November 1 for 25 cents per bushel..... Charley Bias left Andy Beard standing at the door while he pulled his freight for the bushes and Andy returned his mittimus 'not delivered.'

Prepare to pay your poll tax for next year and be independent of candidates in voting..... how about rural mail routes from Selmer, we understand two or more were to being the first of August..... John Ammons at Bethel has bought the farm of Harrison McRimmon near that town for \$1,500 cash..... the prayer meeting conducted by Capt. Hunter last Wednesday night was interesting and pretty well attended..... the county free schools are all under way and seem to be successfully taught.

Robert Fullwood has purchased from Capt. Hunter a residence on Court Ave. He will soon occupy it.....Rev. W.J. Williams will fill his regular appointment at C P church Sunday..... there is talk of another gin going up in Selmer.... the Negro population is having a revival at Prospect church. Quite an able preacher from Memphis conducting the meeting.

Personals: Mrs. T.H. Baker has been quite sick for several days. The friends of Logan Anderson will regret to know that he has so far lost his mind that it was deemed advisable to send him to the asylum at Bolivar. Mr. and Mrs. N.S. McCullar and Miss Nevada Derryberry made a farewell visit to G.W. McCullar and family Wednesday before starting to the west where they go to try their fortunes.

Capt. J.H. Reed and his estimable wife, of Ramer, Tenn, are visiting the family of Dr. F.J. Ramer and family on Quality Hill Ike Dickey in being selected congressional committeeman from this county received recognition by the republican party for services rendered in every election.

J.E.W. of Rose Creek toured farm land in western McNairy County and wrote an article. He noted the poor fences around some of the farms. A great deal of 'brushed' fencing, that is having brush and branches cut and pile on top of a fence. Apparently these fences are wooden fences since he states that the supply of rail timber is almost exhausted. In reading this article it could be that most of the farms are fenced in, instead of the livestock fenced in.

Marriage licenses: Dick Hester to Minnie Dillon. S.S. Brooks to Jannie Baysinger.

Land Transfers: F.M. O'Neal and wife to R.L. Plunk, 67 acres, \$750

D.E. Dickerson to J.R. Hamm lot in Ramer, \$80

C.A. Combs and wife to A.H. Dickey, 154 acres, \$1,300

S.H. Leath and wife to J.W. Smith 15 acres \$150

**August 22, 1902**

News of the world: A 'celestial marriage,' ordered by Brigham Young and carried out in accordance with the rites of the Mormon church has been declared legal by the supreme court of Utah. A woman, who had been married to a wealthy Mormon according to their faith, but was not regarded as a legal wife, brought suit to recover her share of the dead man's property, which she will receive under the ruling of the supreme court.

Tennessee: A sweeping reform in the management of the State penitentiary will be put into effect by Sept 1, 1902. The prisoners will be graded and privileges granted only as their behavior warrants. The convicts are to be divided into three grades. The highest grade, the men will be given some freedom in letter writing and seeing relatives and allowed to wear plain clothes without stripes. The middle grade may wear plain clothes and the privileges are somewhat curtailed. In the lowest class the prisoners will wear the stripped uniform and be allow no privileges what so ever.

The tragic death of Mr. and Mrs. Fair in France, the result of automobile riding, ought to be a warning to users of the horseless carriage.

The new text book law in Tennessee, example: a parent of six children moved from Mississippi to Memphis. The books the children used in Mississippi are the same books that are to be taught in the Memphis public schools. But because these books were purchased in Mississippi they will have to be discarded and new books will have to be purchased that has the Tennessee stamp on them.

The Teacher's Monthly Institute met recently and had interesting discussions: How to start beginners. How to manage pupils about sixteen, when they are beginning to think about the opposite sex. Should you train your pupils to speak. Teachers on the program were : Prof. Cox, J.E. Williams, Anderson Moore, C.E. Wilkerson, J.A. Houston, C.A. Morphis, George Blassengame, Miss Tennie Henderson, Lottie Stone, Horry Hodges, E.L. Whitehurst.

Last Sunday, a young man about 18 years old went to the pasture of a Mr. Barnes, four miles west of Chewalla and caught and rode off a good horse. The horse was soon missed and the man was seen on him making his way toward Mississippi. He was cut off by some officers near Wenasoga riding the horse. They brought him to Ramer for trail Monday and on to jail the same evening. He gave his name as John Weeks. Mr. Curry was the officer in charge.

Emmons Brothers - the old and reliable and popular livery men of Selmer - Nick, Fred or the 'Old Man.'

Adams & Gillespie - the leading family grocery store of Selmer. Mason's fruit jars: quarts 60¢, half gallon 75¢.

Sand Box.....Sunday afternoon the boys and girls enjoy their weekly courting trips hugely. Nothing like it..... Fodder pulling will not interfere with big meetings and pay barbecue picnics..... the black rust on cotton is doing considerable damage in many fields. It affects bottom lands chiefly..... S.W. Gooch is putting in a pea hulling machine at his manufacturing plant in Selmer.

The Federal Soldiers Reunion for West Tennessee will be held at Finger on Sept 17 and 18<sup>th</sup> ..... Eggs are scarce in Selmer... There is getting to be a fine start of Bermuda grass in the

streets of Selmer. If a little attention be given we will soon have a nice sward. It is the best grass for a lawn..... H.A. Warren and J.W. Gooch have taken up at the Selmer Hotel while Mrs. Gooch is away at the springs.... the Mormons will hold a reunion near the Kentucky and Tennessee state line soon. Joseph Smith, the president of the church will be chief speaker.

The Dorch law has become more popular since the election. Before the election not a man in the county favored it, and only one McNairian and he was in Memphis..... A fishing party is organizing for Cypress Tank next week: J.J. Adams, J.D. Null, P.H. Thrasher, W.H. Stone.

Corn meal is scare but it won't be long.... The newly elected county officials will enter upon their duties on September 1.... Anderson Moore is familiarizing himself with the county court clerk duties and boarding at the Curry Hotel. The sick in the family of T.H. Baker's family with slow fever are still down with the lingering disease....

The M & O Railroad is troubled with thieves who enter the long trains at night and get into a car and open boxes of merchandise and throw out what they want to steal to their partners in crime. Mr. Clem Lea says it is a hard job to catch them.

A well is being bored on the college grounds (really high school grounds). It will be a great convenience to the school. .... Spokes are being brought to Selmer from near Stantonville to be sent to Corinth. They could be manufactured in Selmer if somebody would put up a factory.

A country minister in a certain location took permanent leave of his congregation in the following pathetic manner: 'Brothers and sisters: I come to say goodbye. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love one another because I never marry any of you. I don't think you love me, because you have not paid my salary. Your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples; and 'by their fruits ye shall know them.' Brothers, I am going to a better place. I have been called to be chaplain of a penitentiary. Where I go to ye cannot come, but I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your soul. Good bye.'

Personals: Mrs. T.A. Tedford has been on the sick list for some time. Mrs. J.T. Warren and Mrs. J.W. Gooch left Sunday for Red Sulphur Springs where they will take a month's sojourn. Mrs. Mamie Perkins left for Oklahoma to join her husband who is in the railroad service. Rev. George Carman has been away for several weeks of protracted meetings.

J.T. Warren left for Duncan, Indian Territory where he has mercantile interest. Circumstances there will determine whether he will remain permanently or not. Rev. Jack Williams (J.J. Williams) of Texas filled his father's pulpit at the C P Church in Selmer Sunday. They also spent the week visiting relatives and friends at Selmer, Ramer and Adamsville.

Troy Brooks left for Jackson to fill a position in the freight office of M & O Railroad. Jordan Parrish of San Antonio, Texas came yesterday to visit his old home and invalid wife who is at her mother's, Mrs. Martha Phillips. She has not improved since her arrival three weeks ago.

Mrs. Mary Meeks of Henderson, lost her daughter Maggie McCorkle to consumption in Texas. Job Maxedon has been revival work at Crainesville near Sardis. Mrs. Mag Hurst of Memphis is spending time with friends in the county. She was the trusted nurse of the sick bedside in the days of old Purdy.

Land transfers:

William Smallwood and Mary Smallwood to Wm. Sanders, 25 acres, \$200

Wm. Sanders to Wm. Smallwood 41 acres \$200  
E.S. Mitchell to G.W. McCullar, 50 acres, \$250

Marriage Licenses: J.B. Nix to E.A. George  
Robin Johnston to Louise Richards  
L.A. Adams to Eliza Kirk  
Robert Smith to Eva Duberry  
J.E. Garrett to Alma Rinks

A racy letter from Uncle Jake. His account of the candidates speaking Hooligan's Bend:  
Candidate listed for convenience by transcriber Sheriff: R.M Carroll (winner) and Jack Clayton.  
County court Clerk: J.A. Moore (winner) and J.L. Smith. Register of deeds: R.A. Carothers  
(winner) and R.W. Michie Trustee Horry Hodges (winner) and E.T. Cantrell. Circuit Court  
Clerk: W.J. Null, no opposition - August election 1902)

My dear sur - I want to rite you about the candades speekin at Hooligan's Bend.  
McNairians ort to be proud of her noble sons, Mr Editor. Lots of the fokes didn't here these  
fellers ornate an I thot I'd rite to you about ther fine speeches.

Bob Carul was the first at our bend to begin. Bob, you no, is a kinder hard lookin feller.  
Looks like he was born in a wind storm and never got his groth. He says his tung was the only  
part that was healthy and I guess it was so. He tole us how he was so pore when a boy the flies  
would not lite on him and the fleas would pla leep frog on his stickin out bones. He hammered  
iron he said for a livin, borrying the fust pare of hors shues and stole snuff ole iron to make the  
nales. He got elequent on somethin about a feller by the name of Dorch law, don't know  
whether he was any kin to my sun-inla or not. He described him about lik I think of my sun-inla  
Jack Smith. Bob tole about how many of us he'd fed, and it was the truth, as I have stuck my  
legs under Bob's tabel lots of times.

The next feller was the one Bob was a trying to beat - Jack Claten. Well, Jack he  
couldent speak again Bob an he said all he wanted was the fellers awl to vote for him and he  
would play the devil if elected. They all said they would but they dident.

The next feller was mi frend little Annerson More. I tell you how Annerson can sa puty  
things fur sech a littel hed to hole so much purty words is a site. He tole of Washungton climen  
the alps and Moses stanin on pernassus, an weepin Mary Magadeliney and all of them big folks  
that lived on the other side of the pond. We ole men shed tears when he tole us about his mother  
a bein sick an a having nothin to eat, an him goin for doctor Jim Smith and how he saved them,  
and how they paid the dr. in chickens and ags and butter and ingern set.

The little short bu big Dr Smith cum up next after Annerson an his biznes was to chaw up  
my little More and put in an tole what grate things he had dun and how he loved everbody an  
what a nice bou A More was an how he like him but how bad he wanted to beat hem an then he  
tole how many people he had been to see when they was they was sick and sum old woman  
shouted and the dr. he cried and everybody melted up into one bunch and sorter slobered a little.

Then came them fellers that want to handle our money. Fust was my littel man Kantrel  
(Cantrell) and he can canter, too, he talked like a methudist preacher, and mity purty too, he told  
how good he had been a keeping of his books and what a good man he was.

Then there came after him that kid of Bro Hodges. The gurls an childrun call him Horry,

sich a name. Well, he jus riz a speakin an he tole a lot of things that we dident know most of it was about hissself but he talks like a picter. He riz hier and higher, an he spread himsef wider and wider and he tole about the purty gals and my Sal was thar and she blushed like a kid. They all hollered Horry, Horry, an rite then knowed that he had that other fellow. I felt like votin for him miself when Sal said he was the nicest feller she ever seed and come to fine out he's been a making love to my Sal.

Then a feller with red whiskers made a mitey purty littel talk. He was Bob Michy. (R W Michie) Bob never could make much of a speech, but he is powerful fine on kissing babies and shakin hans. He wanted the fellers to elect him to write off the deeds, but of all the slim graveyard looking fellerv (Carothers) of the hole shootin match what beat Bob tuck the pancake. He tole his tail of wo and poorness and he cried some too and begged for votes and he braged on his ritin and got out a pice of paper and rit his name so purty and then rit copies for all the childrun and that's what cotch so many of them old fellers what can't rite and wanted someone who could fill up them big books.

After all these fellers had said their say there was old boss as he was called by Bob Carul when he introduced Mr Null, Bill Null, yes that's hie every day name, and he was feelin good like a ole coon sunnin of herself up the hi cipres tre. He knowed no one was a trying to beat him, as no other man in the co. would have his offs. Bill made a mtey purty littel speach an said he got along fine as he needent chip in to watermilons unles he wanted to, 'an he dident buy one that I seed. After his speckin they all went to shakin hans an sich a time I never seed ceptin at a nigger camp-meetin, bu mi Bob he got aroun fust, last and oftener than did Jack and that's why he got 37 more votes than Jack. Well, Mr. Pro. korrekt all mistake an if you print this will rite agin. Your unkle Jake.

### **August 29, 1902**

One of the crying evils of our day and land is the haste to be rich.

Home Seekers excursions to Texas. First and third Tuesdays of each month. One fare, plus \$2.00 for the round trip to points in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Indian Territory. Return within three weeks. Find a home in Texas where the big crops are.

Absolute security - genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Sand Box ..... William Harvey, near Guys, has the honor of the first bale last Saturday.

An education picnic will be held Sept 6 at Morphis School House. Two and one half miles west of Selmer is one of our many school houses. It stands on a hill surrounded by a beautiful grove, and about 100 yards, down in the ravine, is a spring of crystal water. On the program: E.L. Whitehurst, A.C. Lea, Advice to young men by J.W. Purviance. C.B. Ijams, Pro. Cox, W.K. Abernathy, P.H. Thrasher.

It has been demonstrated that pear trees affected with the blight have been made whole by application of salt around the roots. Old apple trees have been made to become strong by digging around under and among the main roots and pile salt around them.

Will Lea has bought this week a car load of sheep for his Georgia farm. He says sheep are scarce there.

Farmers need to begin to pick cotton just as soon as enough is open to make any progress. Help the man who stumbles, set him on his feet; but if he lies down, make up your mind you cannot carry him. He is not worth carrying.

The district conference of the African M E church was held at Selmer last week, closing Sunday night.

On Wednesday a two mule team and wagon owned by Oliver McAlpin and driven by Bob Johnston, while crossing the bridge south of Selmer was wrecked and one mule killed. It seems that Bob was going over the hill to take dinner with Julius Johnston, who, with his little boy, was in the wagon. When the team got about half way across one of the mules became frightened and began to run back and ran the wagon off on the upper side, the wagon falling near the bank and the team in deep water.

Julius Johnson jumped off and escaped. The driver and boy went down and the mules and all were in the wreckage in deep water. Help nearby rescued the man and boy, considerably busied up and one mule, the other mule was killed. The wagon was broken up. The fall to the water was about 15 feet. The team was a good one and engage in hauling spokes. A proper railing might have prevented the accident. The bridge is not a safe one for heavy teams and has been so considered for some time. The county ought to build an iron bridge at this point. Fortunately the accident was exceeding ten feet outside city limits. The city can't afford another law suit.

Sand Box.... William Harvey, near Guys, has the honor of the first bale last Saturday. He sold in Corinth 8.5 cents and was half hour behind another man in Corinth..... Nick Emmons was out in a buggy Wednesday. He is still quite feeble.... H.C. Gooch's term expires about the last of October.... Big watermelons are plentiful on our street - at poor man's prices.....

Uncle Jake in last week's Independent, is quite a character, and much speculation as to his place of residence. ....Last Sunday was a red letter day with the Negroes. The bishop preached and we all went....the Negro has been entirely eliminated from the polls in Alabama. The state could be Republican in ten years... A.C. Lea is understood to get a deputy ship in the U S Marshall's office in Memphis.....

While the soldier's reunion at Finger is for Federal soldier, Confederate soldiers are welcome. .... Many people attended the protracted meeting at Price's Chapel..... Ike Dickey will either buy his old residence back or built a new one.....

The big illicit distillery woman in Kentucky was finally hauled to the courthouse and tried outside, as they could not get her upstairs. She weights 480 pounds. She has defiled the officers for years, telling them to 'take her,' and they could not until they finally rolled her into a wagon.

Since the rains, turnips have been coming up nicely..... The fool in Michigan who bet he could eat fifty roasting ears, did so, but his widow collected the bet..... Every child in McNairy County should be enrolled in school Monday morning.

Finger: I will give you a few personal notes from out interesting little town. Our school is moving on nicely. J.C. Naylor and Mary Estes were married last Sunday. Everyone in Finger wants to know who 'Uncle Jake' is.

Personals: W.P. Massey, postmaster in Finger, was in Selmer. Mrs M.A. Shull, left to go south to Chewalla and other places to visit. William Yarboro, of Finger, was a witness at a chancery court case. We were glad to see Mr. Jack Wilkerson of Bolivar. He is an old Purdyite

and likes to visit his boyhood home.

Ike Dickey and Mr. Nick Emmons have both been sick. A.C. Lea and wife, left this week to attend the debate at Pocahontas between Pigue and Freed. Rev. J.J. Williams preached at New Salem C P Church before he left for his home in Texas. Mr. Isaac T. Dickey was circulating a petition Thursday for the appointment of postmaster in Selmer. Mr. Lea will leave the post office for an appointment as deputy marshal, appointed by Mr. Elgin.

The Selmer free school will open Sept 1, 1902. J.W. Prather, H.P. Wood, E.F. Hendrix, Board of Education Commissioners.

Marriage Licenses: J.C. Naylor to Mary Estes.

Land transfers: Oliver M. Gooch to Mrs. J.F Gooch, 100 ac, \$50

J.H. Clemons and wife to J.H. Swain, 2 acres, \$40

W.E. Stainback and wife to J.H. Swain, one acre \$10

J.R. Murry et al to W.A. and J.D. Murry, 120 Ac, \$150

Meeks & Erwin to A.A. McDaniel, 90 acres, \$150

J.C. Maxwell and wife to W.E. Stainback, one lot in Bethel Springs \$200.

### September 5, 1902

St. Jacobs Oil positively cures rheumatism, neuralgia, backache, headache, feet ache and all bodily aches. Conquers pain.

When you have pains in your back, or any disease of the kidney or bladder try Dr. McGee's Backache & Kidney Cure. It will cure you,

Try Prickly Ash Bitters for heartburns and other conditions of the digestive organs.

The war between the cattlemen and farmers in west Oklahoma continues unceasingly. Destruction of crops, killing livestock, shootings and ignoring the laws in every way.

The cholera is still raging in the Philippines. The natives are dying by the hundreds and many soldiers.

Beginning October 1, 1902, the following free delivery routes will be established in McNairy County:

Bethel Springs - 3 routes, area cover 70 square miles, serving 1979 people.

Selmer will have two routes, 48 square miles, 1207 people served.

The post offices at Rose Creek, Lawrence and Joplin will be discontinued.

Foxhall and Winneville will be discontinued in Chester County.

Masseyville supplied by rural carriers.

The three fence wire has it's problems. A sheep always tries to get out of an enclosure. A hog always tries to get in. However, sheep will never eat up or destroy a crop.

Rose Creek: Protracted meeting at this place last week was very largely attended from all parts of the county. Some visitors were: Misses Ora Williams, Alpha Scott, Pearle Abernathy, Vera Prather and Hollis Williams of Selmer; Miss Pearl Swaim of Jopling; Miss Huldah Huddleston, Messrs. Charlie Hornsby and Wendall Huddleston of Crainesville.; A.C. Lea and

wife of Selmer and Misses Pearle Stone and Lillie Prather of Selmer. The meeting at Mt. Gilead was very successful. Fifteen persons were baptized there last Saturday afternoon. The new gin at this place will be ready in a few days.

The following question will be debated at Hooper's school house on Friday evening: 'Resolved, that nature furnishes more and better evidence of God than Revelation.' J.E. Williams, Rev. Cal Stumph, Prof. C.E. Wilkerson, Rev. W.H. Jordan.

The funeral service of Jasper Shelton at Mt. Gilead last Sunday was attended by a large crowd. The newly organized baseball team here with Ben Lockman as catcher and Wendell Huddleston as pitcher, are making quite a record among local players. A splendid entertainment was enjoyed at the residence of Wm. Lockman last week. Prof. Hatch closed his services of lessons in vocal music last Tuesday.

Marriage Licenses: John Mont to Adaline Hawkins. Warren Landreth to Bertie Mills.

School opened in Selmer last week about 100 students are enrolled. Speeches were made by J.W. Prather, H.P. Wood, J.W. Purviance, J.C. Houston, P.H. Thrasher, Eugene Whitehurst, Horry Hodges, Terry Abernathy, W.H. Stone, W.J. Olive, T.A. Bell, R.D. Anderson and Prof. Mullens. The building has been improved. Prof. Cox will occupy the large upper hall and Prof. Mullers one of the lower room. Mrs. Cox will have charge of the primary dept. Miss Beatrice Griscom will have charge of the musical dept.

Land transfers: L.A. Lockman to L.R. Lockman, 1.5 acres, \$150

Alice Kernodle to E.T. Cantrell, lot in Selmer, \$176

R.I. Hendrix and heirs to Goss Massengill, 74 acres, \$200

D.W. Hester and wife to R.N. Hester, 150 acres, \$650

P.M. Nolan to J.R. McCoy, 24 acres, \$200

E.S. Perkins and wife to Mrs. T.A. Smith – acres, \$50

D.A. McDougal and wife to R.D. Anderson and wife, one lot in Selmer \$30

E.C. Chamness and wife to J.W. Shaw, 232 acres, \$1500

County Officials: Chairman County Court – J.B. Jopling; County Supt. – J.D. Mullens; County Court Clerk – J.R. Adams; Circuit Court Clerk – W.J. Null; Sheriff – R.M. Carroll; Trustee – E.T. Cantrell; Register – J.M. Hamm; Surveyor - Frank Lott; Coroner and Ranger – W. H. Braden.

Sand Box.....three of the railroad fencing gang lost their job Monday: offense, stealing a bunch of bananas from a train.... Fred Emmons has a good job with a bridge crew on the Y & M V Rail road. Fred is a good boy and we are all sorry to know of his going..... Some of the largest apples we have seen raised in the county were brought in by Mr. Burris from near Ramer and sold at 90 cents per bushel.....

Lee Hurst is the towns drayman, having bought out Finely Ammons... H.C. Gooch by getting credit for good behavior while in Memphis jail will soon be released and home again. A petition was circulated here asking for this clemency.....New county officials were qualified Monday and are now at their respective place of duty.....

Pres. Roosevelt narrowly escaped death Wednesday in a street car collision with his carriage in Pittsfield, Mass. Secret Service man on carriage was killed.....Frost was not very high above us this morning..... Old Civil war soldiers reunion at Finger Sept 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>. Both

sides are invited.....

Rev. Lee Sanders and Job Maxedon have been holding an interesting protracted meeting this week..... It is claimed that D.B. Hill never took a drink, a chew of tobacco or kiss a woman. All a lie.

The protracted meeting at the C P Church at Selmer will begin Oct 12.

Last Friday afternoon Mrs. Minnie Whitfield, living about a mile from Corinth, was murdered in a most brutal manner. She was found by her husband Carey Whitfield, when he returned about 7 pm from his job at Adams' Machine Shops. Her skull was crushed in the back part of her throat cut from side to side. She had been dead for several hours. The razor was lying near her which belonged to her husband.

It was evident that she had been killed by the blows on the head before her throat was cut from the small amount of blood from the arteries which were severed. Her body and its condition showed a terrible assault.

Intense excitement was aroused and while several persons, white and black were arrested, but no strong circumstances to point to guilt. It was apparent that a most heinous crime was committed, probably after death. Mrs. Whitfield who had been married for only four years was alone at the time and within one hundred yards of other residences.

Horry Hodges, Prof. H.J. Cox and Miss Callie Sinclair appointed commissioners to examine applications for County Superintendent of Schools. These examinations are pubic on the first Monday in October, as required by law. No candidate can appear before the county court for election to the office of County Supt. without a certificate from these commissioners. J. P. Jopling Chairman County Court.

Williams Bros. in Rose Creek, Tenn is having a big sale to make room for fall and winter goods.

Personals: We regret to learn that Mrs. Frank Locke is in ill health and recuperating at her father's home. Haywood Hair was a caller Monday. He is a big farmer of the county. He thinks cotton will yield a bale to the acre. Eugene Bassham of Rose Creek will go to Memphis to attend the lectures of the Memphis Hospital Medical College.

W.R. Hair of Bulcher, Texas has been home visiting friends and relatives. He has been gone 19 years. He is the son of Haywood Hair. J.L. Hubanks of Sweet Lips was in town settling up the estate of Dan'l Anderson, as administrator. J.C. Hill and wife of Houston Texas are visiting his sister Mrs. Phillips. He is one of our boys who has made his mark in the railroad service in southern Texas.

The relatives and friends of Mrs. Laramore, the aged and revered mother of Eld Laramore and R.P. Meeks, deposited her body in Clear Creek Cemetery Wednesday. She was about 90 years old and made her home with Mr. and Mrs. R.P. Meeks of Henderson.

Dr. Henry Sanders has been attending different hospitals and institutions in Memphis which helps him with his profession as a doctor.

W.A. Gooch is repairing the millinery establishment of Jopling and Anderson this week by additional internal conveniences for them to manage their extensive millinery business. Mr. Gooch owns many more businesses in Selmer than any one man, if he could just be induced to move to Selmer.

## September 12, 1902

Cholera is devastating China, western Russia and extended into the Philippines. 1,500 residents on Isle of Martinique, lost their lives from eruptions of Mont Pelee from August 15 to Sept 2, 1902.

Truly can it be said that Denver has streets paved with gold. The other day in digging a trench across a street the gravel shoveled out showed gold in such quantities that the inhabitants began picking up the gravel and carrying it away until stopped by the police.

It is estimated there are 4,000 persons in the US who possess wealth amounting to one million dollars and upward.

The manufacturers of Ivory Soap pay the Ladies' Home Journal for one page advertisement \$4,000 an issue.

Citizens met in Hardin county last week to take steps towards selecting a candidate for the State Senate who opposes the districting of Hardin county in the outrageous manner in which was done by legislature. The legislature of 1899 passed an act consolidating the 17 civil district of Hardin County into eight districts, which would put the 'Dorch Law' on six districts.

The murder of Mrs. Whitfield in Corinth is still a mystery and has not been solved. The city and county officers are working day and night to solve this case.

There are only two railroads in Alaska: the White Horse from Skaguay to the headwaters of the Yukon and the Wild Goose road from Cape Nome to the mountains.

Land transfers: L.E. Farris to A.A. Farris, one lot in Adamsville, \$200. E.L. Farris to S.M. Perkins – acres \$300.

Marriage Licenses: James Hathcock to Doshie Odum. Edward Worsham to Josie Harwell. W.T. Vickery to W.E. Weaver.

F C and American Beauty Corsets: all styles, all colors. Sold by Jopling and Anderson in Selmer, Tenn.

Sand Box .....the choir at the C P Church had a satisfactory rehearsal last Sunday night. Nearly all the vacant residences in Selmer are now occupied..... Let every one who has a nice colt, mule or bull bring them to the stock show in Selmer on the 24th..... Why can't Selmer have electric lights as well as Henderson.... .. Frost is getting in some early visits..... Jim Emmons has been here this week at the bedside of his father.....More than half the cotton is open and ready to pick.... It is reported now that suspicion points to the husband of the murdered Mrs. Whitfield of Corinth.....

It is now up to the prohibitionists as to their choice of friend or foe in the senatorial race of this district.... The bridge across Cypress south of town is being rebuilt and travel is stopped across it for several days. .... McNairy County must have a fair next season.... the carder of Alexander & Tedford was turning our fine rolls of wool yesterday.

Henderson has electricity and telephone, why can't Selmer.... W.J. Olive and his crew of street hands are clearing the streets of the weeds..... the balmy days are here; the sun smiles softly; the breezes blow gently; the cricket is on the hearth; the mosquito's song is a refrain; the water melon is a back number; the muscadine and 'possum are closely identified; and yet poor mortal man says the rust has ruined his cotton.

The Republican Executive meeting is call for Sept 16 to transact important business. J.G. Wilson, Chm. and A.C. Lea, Secy.

Personals: Leo Atkins of Acton has entered the Selmer High School. John R. Erwin of Stantonville is attending G.R.C. College in Henderson.

Fred Emmons, now in Louisiana, was telegraphed to come home for his father who is dangerously ill. Dr. G.W. Morris of Adamsville, was called professionally yesterday to see Mr Emmons.

The protracted meeting during this week at Morphis school house has resulted in the conversion of quite a number of people. The meeting was conducted by Job Maxedon and J.W. Wallace. At the close an organization of a Methodist church with 30 members was affected.

Mr. A.L King is now on the high school faculty at Halls, Tenn.

J.W. McNatt brought in the first cotton to Selmer last Friday.

Selmer Milling Company has bought a carload of seed wheat, the kind that is generally sown in North Tennessee and has given good results. Wheat needs to be sowed from Sept. 25 to Oct. 15. Early sowing is always best.

### September 19, 1902

It is apparent to any close observer that a big fight will be on in the next legislature on the saloon question. The trend of public sentiment is clearly that of extending to provisions of the four-mile law to towns exceeding a population of 2,000.

The weather bureau may predict all the frosts they please, but any old hayseeder knows that until cuckleburrns are ripe, no frost ever falls in that section.

Sand Box..... There are 58 cases on the docket of the court Monday morning when the court opened. .... All post offices should have stated hours when they are closed and then no one need to miss their mail in a town..... L.M. Beauty is a sight. He wants two copies of the Independent so he and his wife will not fight over who shall get it first.

A.B. Hamm was in town driving a first class rig..... We regret to see that Tom Sanders is badly affected with rheumatism.....the grand jury returned a true bill against Chas. Bias. It is thought to be a put up job - charging him with attempted rape.... The number of criminal cases on docket this week do not give a creditable record of our county.

Soldier's Reunion at Finger, Sept 17 & 18: The day was raining and the surroundings in the afternoon very uncomfortable as a slow rain during the afternoon fell at intervals. A large crowd of old soldiers and citizens were present. Some 50 veterans marched from the depot to the grounds. The business meeting resulted in locating the next meeting in Selmer. P.H. Thrasher was elected president and W.H. Stone, secretary. Speakers were Capt. E.J. Hodges, Gen. W.J. Smith, F.M. Davis, candidate for congress, and W.A. Kerr. Dinner was supplied by the neighboring families and it looked like an old fashioned box picnic.

Any information leading to the finding of a little black pig about 7 weeks old will be greatly appreciated. Hugh A. Warren.

I hereby give notice for all creditors having claims against the estate of W.L. Hurst, deceased, to file the appropriate papers. D.R. Hurst, Adm.

A Republican to find a candidate for representative adopted a committee to report to the next meeting as to the propriety of nominating a candidate. Committee: Neely Graham, chairman; Warner Wyatt, J.W. Gray, J.N. Weatherford, and J.D. Sanders. Upon motion, P.L.

Thrasher was endorsed for state senate and he appointed a committee to consult with others in regard to his candidacy : J.W. Purviance, Horry Hodges, Ike Dickey, A.C. Lea and Terry Abernathy. A.C. Lea tendered his resignation as secretary and J. Williams was elected in his stead.

Circuit Court Notes: the September term of circuit court opened Monday morning with Judge Woods presiding. B.J. Howard, attorney general. R.M. Carroll, sheriff and W.J. Null, clerk. Attorneys in attendance: B.J. Howard, A.W. Stovall, W.J. Lamb, T.F. Stubblefield, J.W. Robinson, M.F. Ozier, E.W. Ross, F.S. Elgin, D.A. McDougal.

Grand Jury: S.H. Russell, foreman. W.J. Maness, J.C. Moore, Meshack Inman, T.F. Williams, Ephriam Michie, J.L. Meeks, J.H. Clemons, J.C. Hardin, Thomas Hockaday, Jeff Cardwell, S.F. Booker and J.H. Dodds. Officer, J.A. Crabtree.

Travis Jury: J.T. Houston, J.K. Wardlow, J.C. Gilbert, James Jordan, Thomas Frazier, Thomas Brewer, William Henry, Scott Robinson, J.D. Sanders, J.A. Weatherly. Officer, J.B. Jackson.

Cases disposed of: State vs J.A. Locke five cases of various offenses. Compromise.

State vs J.A. Locke - assault to commit murder. Verdict by jury of guilty of assault and a fine of \$100 and 130 days in county jail.

State vs Wat Hardin - c. w. fined \$50 plus costs.

State vs Mack Robinson - c w - case stricken from docket.

State vs Elbin Sipes and Elmer Jones - D P W nol. Pros, at cost of defendants.

State vs Mrs. E.H. Cogburn - f.a. nol pros.

State vs Odus Steele - gaming - submitted \$1.00 fine plus court costs.

State vs Ernest Wolfe, gaming - submitted \$1.00 fine plus court costs.

State vs Guy Plunk and Thad Newburg - gaming. Submitted. Fine plus costs.

State vs John McDaniel - public drunkenness - nol. Pros.

State vs Andy Shields - gaming - submitted - \$1.00 fine plus costs.

State vs John Moore - public drunkenness. Court cost.

State vs John Weeks - larceny - plea of guilty - 3 years in penitentiary.

State vs Amerson Bartley, murder - trial going on when we went to press.

Land transfers: D.F. Mulder and wife to E.S. Perkins, — \$45

J.A. Locke to Bula Locke, 3 acres \$850

W.F. Moore and wife to J.W. Robinson, 10 ac \$125

Jefferson Ramsey to Con Perry, acres \$90

J.B. Jopling and wife to T.H. Sipes 59 acres \$200.

Personals: J.F. Kirkpatrick was in Monday looking after things seen and unseen..... J.R. Wesson, the Mark Hanna of the 15<sup>th</sup> district, permitted us to privately interview him Monday. (Transcriber's note: It is unknown who Purviance was referring to as Mark Hanna, unless he meant Mark Hanna the Republican Congressman from Ohio who was very well known in 1902.)

Mrs. S.H. Russell, of the first district is spending a few days with the family of W.J. Null. This is her first visit to Selmer..... Mesdames J.T. Warren and J.W. Gooch returned from Red Sulphur Springs where they have been spending a month's outing.....

Rev. J.W. Lorance will preach at the Methodist church in Selmer Wednesday night. Mr. Bud Robinson was in Monday talking cattle. He is one of the few men in the county who is a strong advocate of pure blood cattle. He has Durhams. Fred Emmons is at his father's bedside. Mr. H.N. Emmons is in critical condition and may not recover. His age and general physical conditions are against him.

We regret to learn of an accident to W.A. Gooch last Friday. He fell from a ladder going up in his barn and sustained two broken ribs and a damaged hip joint and bruised arm. B.F. Darby was in Monday engaging his pear crop. He had some fine specimens.

Those that came by and added their name to rolls of the Independent: J.W. Gray of Adamsville, J.H. Swain and W.M. Davis of Leapwood, J.T. Walker and P.M. Baker of Purdy, J. N. Smith and W.C. Henderson of Otterville.

If lame, stiff or sore use Mexican Mustang Liniment. For sixty years the best remedy known for man or beast.

Libby Luncheons: We seal the product in key opening cases. Turn a key and you find the meat exactly as it left us. Potted Ham, Beef and Tongue. Ox Tongue (whole) Veal Loaf. Deviled Ham. Brisket Beef. Sliced Smoked Beef. Your grocer should have them. Made by Libby, McNeill & Libby, Chicago.

### **September 26, 1902**

Lieut. Peary and party, who in 1901 sailed on the steamer windward on an Arctic expedition, has returned. Peary reports important discoveries in natural history.

Mrs. Roosevelt is having a new china service made for the White House. It will cost \$30,000, and it is said, will be the finest in the United States.

A fight over a seat in the National Convention of Colored Baptists at Birmingham, Alabama, resulted in the death of over 100 people. At the conclusion of an address by Booker T. Washington, Judge Billon, a Negro lawyer from Baltimore, engaged in an altercation with the choir leader. Someone in the choir cried 'they're fighting,' and some people misunderstood the word fighting for fire and the congregation arose en masse and started for the door. A minister tried to tell the people to be quiet, but that word was also mistaken as fire.

People crawled over benches, fought their way into the aisles and who had fallen were trampled. The level of the floor was about 15 feet from the ground and long steps led to the sidewalk. Brick walls extend on each side of the steps about 6-7 feet, making a death trap. Within minutes people were piled upon each other to a height of ten feet. Many died from suffocation.

It is feared the Mississippi River will in a few years cut a new channel above Memphis and leave that city unless something is done to hold the stream to its present course.

The Farmer's Institute met and Esq. W.A. Gooch called the meeting to order, J.B. Maxedon offered prayer. A permanent county Institute was established with W.A. Gooch chairman and P.H. Thrasher vice president and J.B. Maxedon secretary. Several men of the county exhibited their cattle at the meeting. J.W. Purviance had his herd of pure red polls and grades showing 1/4 bloods, 1/2 bloods and 3/4 bloods. Messrs. Mitchell and Swaim had a large Durham crossed on Poll-Angus on exhibition. A shower of rain cut off a fuller show.

List of delegates to attend the district meeting in Jackson. Shows district - delegate - post office - alternate:

1. S.K. Wallace, Otterville, J.N. Smith
2. W.W. Roberson, Bethel Springs, E.B. Roberson
3. T.H. Sipes, Joplin, Jas. Kerby
4. B.F. Darby, Gravel Hill, S.T. Chambers
5. Josiah Jordan, Gravel Hill, N.F. Nichols
6. P.H. Thrasher, Selmer, Job Maxedon
7. J.T. Walker, Purdy, Bob Luttrell
8. N.R. Ward, Finger, W.B. Malone
9. Robert Wade, Michie, Esq. Steele
10. E.W. Wyatt, Stantonville, N.D. Erwin
11. D.D. Hardin, Leapwood, Goss Massengill
12. W.F. Meek, Adamsville, J. Bishop
13. Wm. Ruleman, Gravel Hill, John Erwin
14. Giles Springer, Chewalla, J.M. Dixon
15. W.E. Parrish, Adamsville, A.K. Abernathy
16. G.D. Maness, Enville, J.B. Jackson
17. D.W. Cobb, Bethel Springs, J.E. Mitchell
18. M.E. Shelton, Ramer, James E. (no last name)
19. Wm. Piggott, Bethel Springs, W.M. Lain

Delegates at large:

Tom Ramer, Ramer, John H. Hamm  
J.J. Swaim, Bethel Springs, J.H. Hendrix  
L.A. Lockman, Bethel Springs, Bud Roberson  
J.T. Houston, Selmer, A.B. Hamm  
J.W. Purviance, Selmer, C. Lea  
W.A. Gooch, Gravel Hill, John Hamm Jr.  
Henry Harris, Selmer, J.W. Taylor  
C.A. Massengill, Selmer, J.T. McCullar  
R.F. Beard, McNairy, J.S. Lain  
T.N. Bell, Selmer, J.W. McNatt  
J.W. Blasingame, Ramer, W.C. Henderson  
R.W. Caffey, Caffey, J.W. Robinson  
Jas. Milstead, Otterville, J.L.W. Boatman  
Joe Wagoner, Purdy, C.C. Marshall

One dollar will pay for the Independent for one year. Can you spend two cents each week to any better advantage.

County Officials: Chairman County Court – J.B. Jopling; County Supt. – J.D. Mullens, County Court Clerk – J.A. Moore, Circuit Court Clerk – W.J. Null, Sheriff – R.M. Carroll; Trustee - Horry Hodges; Register – R.A. Carothers; Surveyor - Frank Lock; Coroner and Ranger – W.H. Braden.

Sand Box ..... P.M. Dickey will begin his work the first of the month. (At the post office)

His bond is made and his commission will issue at once.... J.W McNatt sold his farm of 40 acres to Henry Dennie of Bethel.....The weather of the week has been horrible for cotton picking and haying. Not much rain but at it all time between showers.....The work on the bridge south of town promises to shut off communication all fall.....after 17 days investigation by a Pinkerton detective, he has abandoned the Whitfield murder case.....

The open season to ship cattle north from Tennessee will be from Nov. 1 to Feb. 1. So says the National Sanitary board at its recent meeting in Wichita, Kansas.... Mule buyers will be here October 3 to buy all kinds of mules except the aged and gray.

Personals: T.A. Tedford has moved into the Jeans residence and Mr. Humphery to rooms at Mrs. Phillips. Prof. Eugene Whitehurst begins his school at Pittsburg Ldg. next week. Mr. H.N. Emmons has survived another week.

Anderson Bartly, whose trial was on hand last week got a term of ten years for murder in the second degree. He and John Monroe each have a similar term for the same offense of killing a Negro. Both cases have been appealed and they live in jail for the time being.

Coming to Selmer – W.H. Harris World Famous Nickel Plate Show. One day only, Wednesday, October 8, 1902.The tent will be erected in the edge of Mr. Thrasher's field below the mill.

The Mobile & Ohio Railroad will sell tickets for the St. Louis Fair, held October 6 - 11 in 1902, at the rate of one fare for the round trip, allowing one week in St. Louis.

Rose Creek: Cotton picking is in fair progress. The yield has been considerably lighter than expected. The corn and pea crops are both good. Neely Graham and W.W. Robinson attended the reunion at Finger last week. William Bros. have just opened one of the finest fall and winter stocks of goods in the county anywhere. J.F. Stump, an energetic young man, attended the republican convention in Selmer last week. There will be a baptizing near Mt. Gilead on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. J.E.W.

Finger: We have the best business point from Jackson to Corinth. Saw and grist mill and two cotton gins at work bespeak prosperity. Our merchants are ever on the lookout. Thos. Naylor is building a nice five room house on Hill Street. Dr. J.H. Curry has all the practice he can go. Moses Kirkpatrick was on our streets Monday. Uncle Mose is very feeble. Drs. Curry and Hodges were called to the bedside of Uncle John Carroll, who is afflicted with heart disease and fell from his chair. From the large number of drummers on our streets the past week, the hotel business must be on a boom.

Marriage licenses: Alfred Crocker to Emma Kirk  
W.J. Howie to Frannie Thrailkill  
George Rowsey to Katheryn Morton  
P.A. Blakely to America Davis  
Edgar Vogles to Della Essary.

There will be a reunion of federal soldiers at Bethel Springs on Oct 4, 1902, near the springs of W.A. Laughlin, where the 6<sup>th</sup> Tennessee regiment was encamped forty years ago. Everybody is invited to come and bring full baskets and have a good time. W.A. Laughlin, D.W. Hester, W.W. Roberson, H.C. Moore, T.V. Moss.

Land transfers: W. Purviance to W.M. Lock, town lot in Selmer, \$300.  
W.T. Carothers to J.R. Young, 48 acres, \$750.

When we have a farmers' institute permanently organized in this county and the three-wire law passed, we will see some life and prosperity in our county. By next year we will have a county fair and things will move on an up-hill grade heretofore unknown. One half of the McNairy people who are in Texas will be back as soon as they gather their short crops and get means to come back. McNairy is naturally a better country than any of the western territory. The only trouble is the old fogy ideas. The inducement to go west is because they are advanced in ideas. Why not advance ourselves and thereby meet the reason inducing our people to leave. McNairy is naturally superior in certainty of crops and health to the west.

### October 3, 1902

Big mining strike in Pennsylvania. Troops sent to Panther Creek Valley because of turbulence among the striking miners. The government offices in Washington are short on coal, and if the miners do not start up the offices will have to close.

300 miner employed near Birmingham have refused to work because one of their number failed to pay the \$1 per work assessment for the anthracite strikers.

Selmer High School: There are now 121 pupils, 18 of whom are boarding students. Pupils enrolled this week are James and Broze Wardlow of Caffey; Miss Velma and Raymond Carter of Gravel Hill. Miss Grisham is progressing nicely with her class in music.

Finger: The heavy rain Tuesday stopped the farmers from work for awhile but they are bringing in their cotton and settling up as the go. Mr. Gregory, the genial hat drummer, was with us this week. John Sanders, the grocery drummer, visited us this week. W.S. Young, road overseer, is making us some good roads. Charley Parrish and Frank Sanders, of Adamsville, visited Dr. Curry this week.

Fraternal Societies: Masonry: Blue Lodge - Terry Abernathy, WM; W.J. Null, Sec.; Meets Friday at 7 pm on or before full moon each month.

Masonry: Chapter - J.M. King, H P; W.J. Null, Sec. Meets first Saturday in each month.

Knights of Pythias: Louis Adams, CC; Terry Abernathy, KRSS. Meets every Monday night.

Woodmen Of The World: S.W. Gooch, C C; J.H. Bigger, Sec. Meets every other Friday night.

Sand Box.....Everybody was picking cotton Wednesday though it looked pretty damp.

The governor of Mississippi says he will investigate the reason why the sheriff at Corinth did not call upon him for troops to prevent the mob's attack on the jail. Mob law by hanging and burning has a demoralizing effect upon young men. It makes them disregard human life and has a contrary effect upon a community to prevent crime. (The mob burnt the Negro accused of killing Mrs. Whitfield a few weeks ago in Corinth.)

Rev. Weaver organized a new church at Morphis school house with about forty members. A church building will soon be under way.

Personals: Roscoe Tedford who is attending school in Jackson was home to visit his folks. J.L. Emmons, Mr. and Mrs. Johns Sanders, and relatives of Mr. Emmons are still at his bedside. Clem Lea has returned home after a week's trip through some eastern states. Mr. Dickey took charge of the Selmer post office Wednesday morning. It will remain at the same place for the present.

H.C. Gooch returned Saturday from his restrained stay of eleven months in Memphis. His health is good and he seems to take a hopeful view of things. The M E Church began a protracted meeting Wednesday night. Preaching morning and night for this and next week.

Rev. W.J. Williams has just returned from Presbytery at Olive Hill in Hardin County.

A.C. Lea has left for Memphis where he will begin his new job as office deputy under the US Marshall.

### **October 10, 1902**

The establishment of additional rural free delivery mail will add over five million dollars expense.

Riots at New Orleans because of the strike of street railway men.

The republicans of McNairy county Monday determined not to nominate a candidate for senate or house representatives. No one seemed to want the race against Abernathy. When Mr. Elgin could not defeat him in the presidential when McKinley carried the county by some 60 majority no one thought they had a chance this year.

The old 'first Monday' so well known to McNairians have passed with the things gone before. Purdy was the historic of those meetings monthly of horse swappers and the attending contingents of drunken and vagabonds. Things have changed. Uncle Bill Sweat was known as king of the ring. In his quaint, witty sayings and one stanza original poems, he could give a zest to a crowd which would join in a yell when he opened the ball. Poor old man cannot now meet the boys as in former years. Never at Selmer could he or his would-be successors ever get a bone-yard adjusted to new surrounding and now that institution is no more. Only horse swapping is carried on now as a lawful transfer. In old times the rule was no truth to be told, no good horse or mule to be traded, no sober man to enter the ring and no raring or kicking on being swindled. Any kind of horse or mule flesh was a legal tender in payment of any boot in a horse swap. What a scene we have today; sober men, truth men and reliable men are the successors to the original bone-yard crowd.

The Republicans met with a mass meeting and selected J.W. Purviance as chairman and J.E. Williams as secretary. The committee reported that they deemed it unwise to make any nomination for the legislatures and by making no recommendations, leaving the voter to free to vote as he please.

Lawson King, near Selmer, brought to our office, where it can be seen, the most gigantic pea vine was have ever seen. And no one who has seen it claims to have ever seen such a growth from one pea. There are about 20 branches from the root stalk and they are from 12 to 18 feet long. The vine was full of a yellowish colored peas.

News of Selmer School: the school is progressing nicely. There were five new pupils last week, which makes 126 in all. Among the new are Charlie McCoy of Gravel Hill and Miss

Frankie D. Ford of Olive Hill. Tuesday evening we had a vote whether we would go to the show Wednesday or not. All were in favor of it but Sidney Brisco. Prof. Cox gave us a holiday. Thursday night we are going to have a debate.

Rose Creek: Here are a few lines just to let you know: Neely Graham is not married yet. Rev. Gooch baptized five persons at the ford near Mt. Gilead Sunday. The new Church house at Mt. Gilead is near completion.

The people are somewhat slow about making preparation to receive their mail through the rural free delivery facilities. Rev. W.T. Bazzell will teach at Moore's School House this winter.

A letter from Oklahoma: "A native McNairian who has wandered away to the south-west and who has taken up his abode in the red man's country, begs for space for the purpose of correcting, so far as he is able, an erroneous idea prevalent in the east in regard to this county.

The greater portion of the Indian Territory is rolling prairie. The valleys are narrow and are generally wooded with hickory, elm, oak and cottonwood. The soil is generally fertile. Farming is the chief industry.

The people of the Indian Territory came here principally from Texas and other southern states and would vote the democratic ticket if allowed. Oklahomans are principally from the north and consequently a majority of them vote with the republican party. Indian territory has no territorial form of government, while Oklahoma has. Our judges are imported from Ohio, Illinois, etc. A white man can not own a farm here unless he marries a native - consequently your scribe is landless. Indians are not permitted to sell their land. In incorporated towns of 250 population and over, white people can own lots. The Indians won the lands in common - but each holds all he can fence. As a result of this practice the intermarried or 'galvanized' men (called squaw by story writers) and the more progressive breeds have almost monopolized the lands, while the full-bloods generally retire to the smaller tracts, and live in a squalid village and cultivate little 'Tom Fuller' patches of corn and raise a few cattle and 'pestle tail' ponies.

The ratio of white people in the Territory of the Indians is about 10 to 1. Perhaps one half of the Indians are mixed breeds.

The red or copper-colored Indian is a myth - found only in books. A ginger-cake mullato comes nearer fitting the adjective 'copper colored; than it does an Indian. The Indian is dark, sometimes very dark, but without red whatsoever. Strange that the scientist and authors have never learned that the Indian is red or copper-colored only when he uses war paint.

Those who come here expecting to find a great difference between life here and in the States will be mistaken. Indian Territory is under Arkansas' law. It has no free school system, but there are subscription schools and churches not only in towns but throughout the county districts everywhere. There are also high schools and even colleges. The cow boys, few in number, are very tame and gentle. They wear neither horns nor pistols. Life is no more romantic and picturesque here than elsewhere. We came here from the State and we brought our traditions and customs, our prejudice and beliefs with us. We look, dress and act very much as other folks do. We work during week days and go to church and rest on Sunday. We send our children to school. We bury our dead in the graveyard, and we do so with as firm a faith in their final awakening on the resurrection morning as though they were buried in the states." John H. Mason.

Pittsburg Landing: The most exciting feature around Pittsburg is the monuments on

Shiloh Battlefield. The Indiana monuments arrived last Friday. Some of the monuments will weigh seven tons. Major Ashcraft left for parts unknown to us last week. Visitors are here almost daily to look over the beautiful scenery. There are two Sunday Schools here. The southern and Northern M E and there seems to be some workers in both schools. Of all the old men I ever met, Capt. Shaw is the most ambitious. No wonder the government keeps him to look after its dead. E.L. Whitehurst attended the Institute at Savannah and spoke on the subject of building up county schools. One thing we do not have in Pittsburg is mud. It can rain all day but there is no mud. Among the many improvements now in Pittsburg is the school. The teachers don't allow the pupils to run the school as they are in the habit of doing, neither does he allow his class in decimals to look at the answer to see where to place the decimal point. Miss Dean, from Hardeman County began her school at Shiloh last week. Magister

Sandbox.....The display of millinery at Jopling & Anderson's makes one think of a big city sure enough..... Cotton took a little tumble Monday....Anderson says Saturday was the busiest day at his gin he ever had..... We are not worried about the coal strike as long as there are black jack forests in McNairy county.....

Bob Taylor is billed for a political speech here tonight....Selmer has the best opening for a hardware store of any place we know of..... Every boy picked cotton harder this week than usual to get that extra fifty cents to get into the show. The sun of day had hardly rubbed the sleep from his eyes before the boy was out to see the elephant and ponies Wednesday morning. The elephants, ponies and monkeys were the drawing feature for the children at the big show....

Prof. Mullens and Terry Abernathy are the two applicants for county school superintendent who were examined this week..... the County Court appropriated \$100 for the mule that was killed on the defective bright near Selmer, two months ago..... Over 3,000 People were visitors at the big circus. The County Court assessed a special county tax of 10 percent for county purposes Monday.

Personals: Miss Mary Lou Stumph of Foxhall, is among friends in Selmer. Editor Lewter of the Adamsville Telephone has been in town. Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Adams attended the funeral of Mrs. Wagoner Sunday. Fuller Kirkpatrick left this week for Alabama and Mississippi to engage in his nursery business.

Major James of McNairy was in to see us this week and ordered the paper sent to relatives out west. J.G. Wilson, Bethel Springs P M and general utility man was in to see us this week. T.B. Whitehurst was taken with hemorrhage of the lungs Wednesday and is quite ill. J.M. Rouse is moving to McNairy to go into the grocery business. Bruce Barnes, the saw-mill man of the 11<sup>th</sup> district was in Monday. New subscribers: J. Brooks, Mrs. S.A. Hockaday, and Mr. E.J. Younger. W.C. Henderson and J.N. Smith of Otterville, were in the city one day this week. H.N. Emmons has passed another week but is still growing weaker.

Marriage Licenses: Evander Hicks to Emma McCorkle  
I.T. Laughlin to Carrie Haynes  
Will Tanner to Lela McCuller  
Jessee McCuller to Miss Springer.

The community near Purdy was shocked Sunday morning by the sudden death of Mrs. Robert Wagoner. She was well and jovial all morning and in going on the premises fell dead by

what is supposed heart trouble though she had never had any trouble in that regard. She was an estimable lady and leaves a husband and only one son about 21 years old. Her funeral was attended by a large concourse on Sunday of sympathizers, relatives and friends.

Land transfers: Rufus Meeks to J.C. and M.W. Meeks, acres \$40

W.F. Duke and wife to A.H. Dickey, 127 acres \$950

G.E. Sipes to S.B. Smith, 50 acres, \$150.

T.A. Tedford, Blacksmith. All kinds of blacksmith and wood work on wagons, buggies and farm implements. Horse shoeing a specialty.

### October 17, 1902

Some of the railroads in the United States are converting their locomotives to wood burning because of the coal strikes.

Only mail street cars are running in New Orleans because the strike of conductors and motormen.

The labor commissioner of Tennessee, has ordered that all children under 14 years of age employed by factories be dismissed.

There are 884 full blooded Osage Indian and 940 of mixed blood live in Kansas.

Free Delivery Mail Routes for Bethel Springs. Leave at 9:00 am. Route No 1: M.C. Roberson, carrier, west to Rose Creek; Joe Sanders place; John R. Mitchell; Mrs. Stump; return to Bethel by way of G.W. Rowsey.

Route No 2: G.J. Carman, carrier; leave Bethel going north-west to Joplin, Mt. Gilead, Foxhall, Masseyville; J.J. Swaim back to Bethel.

Route No 3: J.B. Roads, carrier; east to Purdy; north to R.I. Hendrix; J.W. Ingram; Bratcher Hendrix; Bob Owens; C.C. Plunk.

The government has furnished ten collecting boxes for these routes. Each patron must get a box for his private use. All mail to any one on these routes should be addressed to Bethel Springs, Tenn., Rural Route No 1, 2, or 3 as the case may be. J.G. Wilson, Post Master,

Selmer routes. Route No 1: J.F. Crocker, carrier. Start north on Selmer and Bethel road to Henry Harris; southwest to J. Curtis on Bolivar and Selmer road; west on said road to Moore's School House; south on Bolivar and Purdy Road to Middleton Rd; east (?) and south-west on said road to Purdy and Pocahontas road to Lawrence Post Office; northerly on said road to Bolivar and Selmer Road near J. Curtis; south-east on said road to Tom Morris' and on said road to Selmer.

No 2: Oscar Wooten, carrier. South-east on Selmer and Pittsburg road to Purdy and Corinth Road at Weatherford's farm; south-east on said road to country road at J.D. Perkins; south-east on said road to Purdy to Corinth and Gravel Hill Road at Pleasant Grove; north-west on said road to Selmer and Pittsburg Road at Pleasant Ridge Church and on to Selmer. Selmer routes depart at 8:45 am and arrive at 7:30 pm.

Marriage licenses: E.F. Smith to Nicie Shelton  
Odus Carroll to Pearl Michie  
Joseph Weaver to Nannie Wilson

Selmer High School has increased to 136 pupils since last week. We know of six that will enter next Monday. The contest between the two literary societies will take place on the night of Oct 24. Everybody invited. We have organized a secret society for the young men for the purpose of learning to debate. Ross & John.

Land transfers: J.M. Harris to J.E. Dunaway, 146 acres \$112.50  
Haywood Hair to W.M. Harris, 184 acres, \$325  
P.H. Thrasher to H.C. Taylor 1.24 acres, \$100  
W.B. Gooch to H.A. Hunter - acres, \$225  
J.H. Surratt to R.M. Surratt, 23 acres, \$180

Our people have never done much sub-soiling. There are plows made for such purposes with a long, sharp bull tongue. Let it follow behind the turning plow and go away down into the furrow. The dirt from the sub-soiler falls back into the furrow and loosens up the ground below where it is plowed and by spring the rubbish has all rotted and has become incorporate in the loose sub-soil.

Thursday Night, October 23. One night only. The Royal Comedy Entertainers. Selmer at College Hall.

Sand Box.....the mule buyer will be here Tuesday. Bring on your long ears..... If Selmer had two banks, two cotton gins, and a score of other little industries which we have not got, the town would be up to what it is entitled to..... Well, now the greatest strike of the age is settled, the parties can strike of the age is settled (coal strike?) , the parties can figure up their losses.... The rural mail route business is picking up and will prove a great blessing when well underway....

Carl Wood, trying to imitate the acrobats at the show, fell from a tree.

Personals: Mr. Polk Cantrell of Pittsburg Landing has moved to Selmer. Bill Burns of the 5<sup>th</sup>, paid the first taxes for the year 1902, this week. Mrs. J.R. Jopling was called to Baldwyn, Miss. to see her sister who was dangerously ill, and who died Wednesday. W.M. Ruleman said he couldn't do without the Independent any longer. John Aldrige, from the stalwart 17<sup>th</sup> district, was in town Monday. He is somewhat feeble by advancing years, but the same old earnest, emphatic speech characterizes him.

Anderson Moore became so excited at Gravel Hill Sunday over the doctrine of election and predestination that he allowed his team to leave him and was forced to walk home, a distance of nine miles. Arthur G. Scott, who for several months has been in the Indian Territory arrived in Selmer to visit his mother. He was accompanied by his aunt, Mrs. Tol Atkins.

W.T. Hovis from near Bethel called to see us Thursday and exhibited some specimens of peanuts which were the largest and fine we ever saw. Visiting Selmer last week: J.W. Robinson of Ramer; Jo Gray of Adamsville, John Kernodle of the 17<sup>th</sup> district; Misses Von Vara Farris, Alma Sanders and Mai Wesson, charming and accomplished young ladies of Adamsville spent Wednesday in the city.

W.H. Stone of Selmer, has been appointed special agent of the Census Office to collect cotton ginning statistics for the county.

An Old Pioneer Dead: E. Wooten, died at his home on October 10, 1902. He was born August 6, 1821. Mr Wooten was a man of sterling character, living for a great many years in the extreme southwest corner of the county. In days past he had served as juror and was never set aside by the attorneys for reasons objectionable to them. He was a true gentleman of the old school and now has few survivors in the county. For thirty years we have known him and can pay the tribute of respect to his memory that is due an old, true and tried friend. Rest to his bones and peace to his memory, with our condolence to his friends is the humble tribute of P.(Buried Wooten Cemetery.)

October 24, 1902

The Berfordshire family of Whitbread, England, hold the curious record of having had representatives in the house of commons for five successive generations.

In three years, grave robbers have robbed of 1,200 graves in Indianapolis, Indiana, shipped the bodies to the dissecting rooms of colleges.

648,743 immigrants came to America last year. 466,369 males and 182,374 females. Of this total, 178,375 from Italy; Austria Hungary 171,989; 107,347 from Russia.

Horry Hodges, Trustee, will be at the following places next week to collect taxes for the year 1902 (Polling precinct and district):

Camden - 2	Nethery's - 1	Ramer - 14
Guys - 5	Grave Hill - 5	Caffey - 9
Acton - 9	John Carroll's - 9	Dave Carroll's - 9
Bethel - 19	Stantonville - 10	Kerby's - 3
Garrett's - 9	Purdy - 7	Adamsville - 15
Leapwood - 11	McNairy - 17	Milledgeville - 12
Mt Zion - 12	Johnson's Mill - 16	
O'Neal's Store - 16	Finger - 8	

Finger: Mr. Tom Wamble, one of substantial merchants, has just finished enlarging his residence and it is being painted this week. About 150 bales of cotton have been ginned at this place up to date. Young Bros. are building a model residence for Thomas Naylor. Mr. Joe Weaver and Miss Nannie Wilson were married here last Sunday at the home of L.A. Weaver. Mrs. Herron and baby of near Memphis are visiting per parents Mr. and Mrs. John Dewberry.

Pittsburg Landing (in Hardin County): Pittsburg is still on the boom. Monuments going up every day except Sunday. Indiana will soon have up all her monuments. (I think Pittsburg is what we now call Shiloh Park.) Mr. Louis has returned from Washington, where he attended the old federal soldier reunion. Mr. Kerr, the hustling merchant of Pittsburg, went 'possum hunting "mit dder ploys" a few nights ago. He says he wants the woods all cleared up and all the roads graveled before he goes again. Dr. George Chambers of Nixon was with home folks Friday night. It is real interesting to converse with the doctor, as he has been over most of the world.

The Pittsburg High School is still increasing. About 54 pupils are enrolled and we look for a large number after cotton is picked. Mrs. Chambers has a boarding house here. Mr. Thompson, the park over-seer, seems to enjoy his drives every day. Capt. Shaw says the Independent is the best county paper he knows of anywhere. Magister.

Church directory: Methodist: J.L. Weaver, Pastor. Preaching second and fourth Sunday. Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 am. J.W. Prather, Supt.

Cumberland Presbyterian: W.J. William, Pastor. Preaching third Sunday. Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 am. J.W. Purviance, Supt.

Christian: preaching every first Sunday. Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 am. A.C. Lea, Supt.

Sand Box.... The old Indian Summer has come to see us but left Mr. Injun at home... The comet came and went. The eclipse was on and seen by every one who looked. .... Mr. Emmons at his own request was buried at the grave yard near Acton last Sunday. (White House Cemetery) A large concourse of friends and neighbors attended the funeral. The turnip crop is immense. Sweet potatoes and 'possum' are medium crop and plenty of pickers. Andy Jopling is now ahead on 'possum' victuals.... W.J. Williams preached two good sermons Sunday to large audiences at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Old Gray Eagle is about the best drawing preacher that fills Selmer pulpits.....

Dr. J.L. Smith complains of chicken thieves. He says he has lost forty lately. Doctor, try a shot gun, aim just below the belt. You can pick the shot out and charge a good fee and be even on the chicken score.

Personals: Dr. J.L. Smith went to Cypress Tank professionally Wednesday. Born to William and Moselle Hamilton, a son, October 22, 1902. Bob Stone, who, for the past year has been railroading in Arkansas, has returned, looking like the chills had gotten the best of him. Esq. R.W. Caffey, like all good husbands said his wife likes the Independent.

The brag cotton pickers seem to be B. and Alvin Kernodle, sons of John Kernodle, who picked last Saturday, respectively the 291 lbs and 309 lbs. Rev. T. Cotton of Watsega, Ill. has been in the county visiting relatives. He has remarkable vitality for one his age, and has the same vigorous spirituality of original days in the long by and by of old Purdy.

Those visiting in Selmer last week: R.S. Houston and wife of Guys; John Patterson of Stantonville; Dolphus Wooten of near Cypress Tank; B.F. Darby of the Mt. Vernon area; Warner Wyatt from the 10<sup>th</sup> district; Frank Freeman, the jolly tobacco drummer; T.E. Devault; W.B. Malone of the 8<sup>th</sup> district; N.D. Erwin and son Lacy of near Stantonville; Eld. E.P. Meeks; John Pyron, a leading farmer in the 11<sup>th</sup> district; Mrs. Nora Thompson and children of Adamsville; Miss Jennie Hodges of Finger; A.B. Atkins, farmer in the 9<sup>th</sup> district; Miss Mamye Atkins a young lady from Acton.

Death: H.N. Emmons, after a lingering sickness of several weeks, died Saturday, October 18, 1902, at his home in Selmer. Mr. Emmons leaves a wife, five sons, and one daughter, all grown. It has been our privilege to know Mr. Emmons intimately since he moved from his farm in the south part of the county to Selmer, some ten years ago. He was a man of strong convictions and sturdy habits. His was a social and humorous disposition. He looked on the comic and genial side of life. His devotion to his family was first and to his wife the one above all. During his long and wasting illness he was entirely resigned to what he believed to be the result. The often repeated expressions of appreciation of the watchful care of his family and

friends were characteristic of his big heart. The end came peacefully with an often expressed faith in his future happiness in the land of rest. Peace to his bones and rest to his soul in the happy beyond is our final tribute. P. (Burial White House Cemetery.)

### October 31, 1902

25 physicians of Indianapolis, Ind have been indicted for aiding in the wholesale robbing of graves.

It would be a hard blow to our magnificent school if Teuton was elected to the senate on the promise of repealing the act that repealed the charter of Selmer and thereby restoring the old charter which permitted the sale of whiskey.

A talk to the farmers: I take yer paper and like purty well I beg a little space to make a few off-handed remarks to the farmers of McNairy county and the surrounding hill counties. I intend to talk strate from the sholder and make no apoligees fur what I say.. To begin with, I will say that I wuz born and razed on a farm in old snake and have lived on a farm all mi life. In fact, it mite be sed of me that I wuz born between tu hills of corn and I ant no punkin head nuther. I aint got much edication but what I do no, I nose as well as ennybody alive. I aint much wrighter and aint no great shakes as a speller but I've binm usin mi thinker rite smart of late. I'm just obleeged to empy mi thout hatchery rite now.

I've come to the conclushion that the truble with us old hay seeds is we don't work our thinkers enuff. Its my observashun that wher is wun man tu lazy to wurk there is ten men tu lazy tu think. Our methods air fifty years behind the times, consequently we air the cow's tale of the proceshun. All the world moves but us old nesters. We stand on the ground and lean on the handels uf our ole Georgy plow stocks and cuss our fate. Better cuss ourselves or hire some feller tu.

First and fermost, let say (what has been sed a million times) that we fo in tu much for cotton. We try tu make money tu by our livin, pay the frate both ways, give the other fellow both ends of the rope - we ast him what he will give back and what he will take - so he can ketch us a commin on a gwine, we do this instid of raisin our own livin at home which we can do cheaper than enybody else can do fur us. Then I sed somthin. In any country that don't make about a bale of cotton to the aker it don't pay to munky with it. McNairy aint a cotton county. Ther oughten to be a thousand bales razed in the whole county. We ought to rize in our rath and kick King Cotton's royal setter off. The throne has been usurped and banish him forever from the Republicans of Old Snake's st's. The heavy tribute we pay to him that makes empty cribs, empty smoke houses, empty pocket books, empty dishes and empty heads. It's something awful for a man to be a slave to that old tryant all his life, to plant cotton, have cotton, live for cotton, to be compelled to allus dress cotton clothes and at last when he has served out his cottonhood days on this earth may he have his grave dug in a cotton patch and be buried in a cotton coffin.

Little as you think of it McNairy is a fruit and berry country. It's also a stock country. If we fool farmers now hoe to dix fur razin the like. We depend to much on corn as a feed stuff. We ought to have plenty of good pastures and hay. Tame grasses, pea vine and sorgum. One

acre of sorghum will make more cow and mule feed than five acres of hill side corn. One acre well set in Burmuda grass is worth 50 acres of range. Every farmer ought to have a few acres set out in Burmuda. It is the best grass nature ever invented. Some don't like it because it is hard to kill out. I like it for that reason. It will stay with you through thick and thin like a lean tick to nigger's shin. Plant it when you are young and when your toes are turned toward the twinklin stars it will lovingly carpet your grave and furnish milk and butter for the grate, grate grand children when you are forgotten. No gullies where it grows. It stops them. These old hills all scarred and gashed with gullies ought to be set out in it. I'm too lazy to depend on corn for feed. I'd rather set out something that will grow itself and that stock can eat with trouble of feeding it. If we would read more and grease up our thinning machinery and learn to manage rite, old McNairy is one of the lazy man' lazy man's county on earth. And mark my words: The time is coming at no distant day when these old hills and hollers will sell for as much as the rich bottom lands. So if you haven't got a home you had better get one. Many have already paid out enough rent to by three or four farms. Razin cotton and rentin are both bad habits

Mr Editor, I used to read the Independent when a boy twenty years ago. I thought and still think that as writers, Peggy Gumpy's and Ragged Edger were the equals of Josiah Allen's wife and Bill Arp. Quin Quil.

Sand Box... The school of Bethel Springs under the new management of Prof. Soule is progressing finely we understand.... The purest diamond needs a setting.... the railroad office at Falcon has been discontinued. Another deserted village. ... If the lion didn't roar he wouldn't inspire the respect he does.... the bootleggers and crap shooters are coming to grief in these parts. The great bulk of the cotton crop in McNairy County is picked and sold. .... A cold wave struck us Tuesday morning. Union underwear was sought but not found.

J.W. Stumph is raising the biggest turnip patch of the season. Protracted meeting at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church beginning next Sunday. A gravel road to Pittsburg Landing will be one of the appropriations Davis will get from Congress. Jack Frost came in rather a mild form but yet it shows he intends to be a regular visitor for about five months. The Red Poll bull advertized in the Independent for sale, has been sold for \$100 to a man in Georgia. He is the first registered bull ever raised and shipped from McNairy County.

Personal: Ross Carter and Orphus Abernathy spent Sunday in Acton. Capt. Powers has moved his family to Parsons, Tenn. William Hamilton came in from Memphis to see his new boy. Miss Mary Lou Stumph of Foxhall visited her father, J.W. Stumph. R.P. Meeks preached at the Christian Church recently.

Will K. Abernathy, J. Anderson Moore, J.C. Houston and Sheriff Carroll spoke at Donnel Springs Saturday night. W.H. Stone, left for Sumner, Miss. in response to a telegram stating his son, Clint, was dangerously ill, and died Wednesday night.

John Olive and his father are building the former a photograph gallery near the bank building and it promises to be a thing of beauty and a picture taking place forever.

Leo Atkins, who has been in school for some time, left for his home in Acton, where he will teach this winter. Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Graham left Wednesday night for Cherokee, Tenn., where Mr. Graham will take care of the school at that place. Bell is one McNairy County's young teachers.

Mr. J.R. Dismukes of the M & O Railroad at Bethel Springs and Miss Ollie Wilson were married at the home of Mrs. W.J. Wilson, on Wednesday night. Hugh Carter home from Iowa

where he has been several months. He is to enter the medical school in Memphis. J.J. Adams is not only an all-round old bachelor, desiring to change his state, but he is the crack gardener.

Visiting in Selmer: Henry Helton of Purdy; Duke Hendrix of Bethel Springs; G.W. Graham of Chewalla; Farmer Anderson of Corinth; Miss Gazelle Morris of Adamsville; W.T. Hamm of Corinth; J.R. Hurley, one of Stantonville's progressive merchants. George and Eugene Atkins, two hustling young farmers of the Acton vicinity; Mr. W.A. Wilson of Bethel Springs; Miss Lucy Castleberry, Cornelia and Irma Atkins, three of Acton's prettiest young ladies.

Died: Logan Anderson, on October 27, 1902 at Bolivar, and was buried at McNairy on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Anderson was an old and respected citizen of the county. He was the father of G.L. Anderson of Selmer. His mind and health had entirely failed him for several months. (Burial Mt. Zion Cemetery.)

### November 7, 1902

There has been 75,000 vases of cholera in the Philippines in the past seven months and 75 percent have been fatal. In China this disease is carrying off thousands daily.

3,038 post offices have been established this year.

In the election: the republicans carried everything they claimed or needed in their business. The congress will be about the majority it had before. Every state that was democratic before the election went so again and every state that was republican went its way.

School notes: Some students have quit to engage in other business. But we still have about 120 enrolled. We contemplate having an oratorical contest near the Christmas holidays. Prize is \$5 for best original oration.

The farmer has nothing to sell that does not command a good price. The farmer clothes and feeds the world. The world will eat and never will go naked. The farmer who has no money in his pocket is the one who has raised nothing and has nothing to sell.

The remark in our presence by a county cattle buyer to this effect: 'There are more old cows and steers wearing yokes than I ever saw before emphasized the thought that it will so continue to get worse and worse as the fences are all rotting down and no timber to make new rails. Will people not see that a stock law will have to be adopted to protect crops.

Rose Creek: It's superfluous to say that several persons attended first Monday in Selmer. D.W. Tull, who is engaged in the street car service in Memphis, is at home for a few days. Knight & King's gin is running day and night. W.F. Moore and family have moved to Corinth.

Eugene Basham, one of our fine young men left for Memphis where he will attend the medical lectures. A Literary society has been organized at Moore's School House and will meet every Wednesday night. The school at Moore's School House is doing nicely under the management of Prof. Bazzel. At Mt. Gilead, next Sunday, there will be all day service and dinner on the ground.

News from the Lone Star State, Celeste, Texas - Lots of Tennesseans in this county and in this town. C.A. Combs' family left here this morning for Tennessee. Mrs. V. Freeling has a music class here. Jim Combs has a position in a bank here.

Sand Box..... Monday was a busy day in Selmer (first Monday in the month) and a large

crowd was in town..... The Commercial Appeal was so sick the morning after the election it did not get up at all. In Memphis 4,800 patriots were found at the polls out of a registration of 17,000. The republicans in McNairy stood firmly for Jackson. .... So little interest was taken in reporting the vote of the several district that no one can give figures in McNairy until the returns are opened Monday.... there seems to be an epidemic of throat and lung trouble among the small children of the town.....A fight at Purdy on election day called Attys Abernathy and Wood there the next day to investigate..... The town has been very quiet this week, all because Horry Hodges has not been among us spouting Shakespeare.

Personals: Prof. J.D. Mullens visited Chewalla Saturday. The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gillespie is dangerously sick with pneumonia. John Weeks has returned from Missouri where he has been sojourning for several weeks. Miss Pearle Davis, who has been attending school here, returned to her home in Chewalla. A.C. Lea moved his household goods to Memphis, where he will be at home for the future.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Cantrell has been at death's door during the week but is better today. Capt. W.H. Reeder left at our office a specimen of second crop Irish potatoes. G.W. Farris, of Dyer, Tenn, has been among his old county people this week. W.H. Stone returned from Sumner, Miss. where he was called by the death of his son D.C. Stone of Brights Disease.

Marriage Licenses: B.F. Springer to Lela Browning

Thos. Broswell to Brazelia Franklin

U.N. Bullman to Lonoka Plunk

J.R. Dismukes to Ollie Wilson

Thos. Gray to Novella Cockran

Jim Graham to Mary Smith

J. McKenzie to Mary Comer

Jim Carroll to Rettie Comer

Arthur Armour to Mary Brickuns

J. Richardson to Lula Partridge

Walter Wagoner to Olga Powers

W.F. Moore to Cynthia Floyd

Albert Lain to Lula Maxedon

Charlie Moore to Mattie Wilbanks,

We regret to learn that Mrs. Hattie Parrish died yesterday at her home in Adamsville. She has been lingering for months with consumption. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F.M. Freeman.

Those visiting in Selmer: Hon. A.W. Stovall, D.R. Hurst, J.G. Wilson of Bethel Springs, Mrs. Chas. B. Steadman and son, Master J.R.

Land Transfers: T.C. Campbell to Nep Morton, one town lot \$200

J.T. Dammon to E. Grier and wife to J.R. Moore, 173 ac, \$375

T.J. Perry and Z.C. Perry to M.S. Huggins, 1 town lot -\$50

E.H. Clemens to F.P. Scott, 205 acres, \$236

R.D. Anderson to L.B. Carter 8 tracts \$350

Heirs of W.F. Moore to G.W. Moore, 3 tracts \$1,000

J.T. Barnhill and wife to Sallie V. Powers, 2 town lots - \$150

J.A. Locke to J.W. Locke, 1 town lot \$300

D.A. McDougal to R.D. Anderson, 1 town lot \$30

John W. Finley to Mrs. M.J. Horton, 125 ac \$500

W.S. and Emma Wolverton to L.H. Vinson, 100 acres \$400  
Dr. F.B. Hamilton to N.Y. Miller 90 ac - \$125  
Heirs of Thomas Kendrick to J.A. Kendrick – acres \$80  
M. and F. Sanders to J.A. Kendrick - acres \$80  
J.F. Vinson and wife to J.W. and C.T. Gray, one town lot \$150  
J.F. Vinson and wife to J.W. and C.T. Gray one town lot \$400

Professional Cards - Attorneys allowed to practice law in McNairy County, Tenn: Wood & Barnhill. Candler & Elgin, E.S. Candler and F.S. Elgin. Abernathy and Abernathy: W.K. Abernathy and Terry Abernathy. T.B. Whitehurst, J.C. Houston  
Bigger and Abernathy have shoes that fit in price and comfort.

### **November 14, 1902**

The Admission of Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico to statehood will be one of the first questions considered by the senate when congress meets in December.

Official vote of the November election 1902. Representative W K Abernathy 1302. Abernathy did not have any opposition. Governor: H T Campbell 1086 and J B Frazier 945. I did not include results for Senate, congress and R Commissioner.

The voting precincts are:

First, Second, Fourth, Gravel Hill, Caffey, Selmer, Falcon, Seventh, Eighth  
Pebble, Donnel Springs, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Guys, Chewalla  
Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth

W.H. Stone, cotton census enumerator, give a report: 50 gins in McNairy County. Bales of cotton by October 18 - 3,062.

Just why the farmers of the county did not more largely attend the farmer's Institute meeting we cannot understand.

The lecture of Dr. B.F. Darby on the diseases of horses and their remedy was worth \$5 at least to anybody. We can truthfully say he can talk 'horse sense' equal to the most skilled veterinary surgeon in the state. He puts things so plain and simple anyone can understand.

Assistant Commissioner of Agricultural says 8 million fruit trees have been planted in Georgia. Mostly peach trees.

School notes: It is not every little village that has a high grade school at popular prices; hence the large number of students here. The latest game among the boys is foot ball. It started with the small boys, but soon the larger ones caught the infection and went into the games as if they were training to meet Harvard or Yale.

Pebble: The farmers are taking advantage of this beautiful weather and are gathering their crops of cotton, corn, and potatoes. Tommie Brooks, a hustling farmer of this vicinity recently visited his sister Lula Wicker in Collins County, Texas. Bro. R.W. Michie, Sr., a faithful preacher of the Christian church passed away October 22, 1902. He was in his 88<sup>th</sup> year. H.G. Stutts, our merchant went to Corinth recently with some cotton. Will Sanders is selling out to go to Texas. The small boys are finding a great deal of amusement of hunting 'possum' these pretty

nights. Mrs. Nora Whittaker was on our streets yesterday. J.W. Whittaker is through picking cotton. He made 7,000 pounds on 7 acres. R.L. Chambers is thinking of moving to our town.

Bethel Springs: Bethel still holds the palm for cotton shipment in this county. Mrs. O.H. Stovall gave an informal tea party to some few of our town's younger people in honor of her daughter. The Bethel Academy starts in its sixth week with 51 on the register and several more promised for early dates. The free school will be opened in January for a two months run. The Young Men's Christian Association are to open classes in business arithmetic and grammar on Tuesday evening, Dec. 2. Non-members fee, 10 cents per evening. Ernest Epps is President. Will Pigott, Vice P; Paul C. Stovall, Sec and Richard Pigott, Treasurer.

There will be a joint teachers meeting of Hardin and McNairy County near Pittsburg Landing Dec. 6. Names on program:

E.L. Whitehurst	Wm Littlejohn
Alonzo Phillips	G.E. Fraley
J.A. Houston	M.L. Jowers
Jesse Pickens	Florence English
Hattie M. Hanna	S.S. Littlejohn
Oscar Duncan	Della Yancey
Callie Sinclair	C.A. Lowe
C. Hamm	J.W. Hickman
H.E. Woodside	Prof. Soule.
Maggie Hodges	Elizabeth Williams
W.F. Bell	L.W. Ellis
C.P. Patterson	Eugene Whitehurst
J.A. Moore	A.K. Hamm
Horry Hodges.	

The YMCA reading room was well patronized on Sunday last.

Sand Box: Monday looked like a first Monday on the account of a little trial from the First district. It was compromised and everyone went home relieved..... J.M. Hamm and S.W. Gooch are doing up the pea crop with their new hulling machine.... from the meager attendance at the farmer's institute meeting one would infer this county is strictly a mineral and manufacturing community.....Andy Jopling is the crack 'possum and squirrel hunter.'

It is hard to tell how Oklahoma went for congress. By the way, Cross, the democratic candidate, is said to be a son of Alphonzo Cross of McNairy County.

Personals: Visitors in Selmer were: Will Pigott of Bethel Springs; W.P. Perkins of Stantonville, G.E. Sipes of Adamsville, Miss Bala Williams of near Bethel Springs, Miss Pearle Gilchrist from near Adamsville, Esq. J.R. Wesson, W.B. Malone of the 8<sup>th</sup> district.

Mrs. N. Carter is visiting her sister Mrs. J.W. Prather. Miss Mattie Powers is the guest of her sister Mrs. Albert Gillespie. Mrs. J.C. Houston spent a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Harris, at Finger. John R. Smith accompanied his sister, Miss Minnie to Jackson where she will attend school at S W R U. Mrs. Lou Anderson and daughter Alice left for Memphis where they will probably reside permanently.

Mrs. W.C. Derryberry and daughter Miss Nevada spent a day with Mr. and Mrs. G.W. McCullar.

Died: Infant child of Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Hagy, at the home of Mr. Erwin. Buried Sunday

at Shiloh.

Terry Abernathy tells us he is enlisting strong support in his race for county superintendent. J.N. Weatherford and wife, of the 13<sup>th</sup> district, and Mesdames S.A. and J.C. Jones from near Selmer were shopping recently. Wynn W. Stump, who has been engaged in the telegraph service in Hollywood, Miss., visited his father John W. Stump.

Died - Robert T. McIntire, in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year, died at his home near Finger on Nov 7, 1902. Uncle Bob, as he is familiarly called, was well known in the county and was the father of a large family who are now in middle life. One of his daughters is the mother of post master Dickey. He has been feeble for a number of years, yet has been able to be about, frequently coming to Selmer within the past year. (Burial Mt. Carmel Cemetery.)

Died - the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. E.T. Cantrell on Saturday night and was buried Sunday. Rev. Weaver conducted the service at the M E Church before a large audience. It is very sad bereavement as the little boy was a most promising child about one year old, and the parents were dearly attached to it.

### **November 21, 1902**

Those that attended the West Tennessee Farmers' Institute from McNairy County: W.B. Malone, J.J. Swaim, B.F. Darby, Joe and Robert Wagoner, C.C. Marshal, J.E. Mitchell, P.H. Thrasher, T.N. Bell, W.M. Ruleman, Wm. Pigott, A.H. Jopling, J.H. Pyron, W.A. Gooch, Dalton Gooch, A.B. Hamm, J.W. Robinson, J.T. Houston, Ike Hill, J.C. Milstead, J.T. McCullar, W.J. Null, N.K. Ward, R.F. Beard.

Pittsburg Landing: Some sickness in the neighborhood. The Indiana Commissioners are in Pittsburg fixing up monuments. Dr. G.P. Chambers of Nixon was with us Saturday and Sunday. Rev. Maddox preached his farewell sermon here last Sunday. We are expecting a nice time at the teacher's meeting on December 6. The school is progressing nicely. The teacher reports 63 pupils enrolled and increasing every day. If you want to send to an up-to-date school where order and politeness are regarded as important as book learning, send to Union at Pittsburg. There will be services at the church thanksgiving for the benefit of the children. The Shiloh school is moving along nicely. Miss Dean is the teacher. Nixon Emmons of Selmer, passed through our city this week driving a pair of high steppers. Miss Minnie Howard of Leapwood visited friends here. Guy Chambers has been on the sick list. Signed Magister.

Bethel Springs: the basket ball teams are hard at work in preparation for the coming entertainment on Thanksgiving night. It is hoped Selmer may find a way to send a good delegation. The board has decided to open free school on Dec. 1 for two months. It is hoped that every child in the district will register for this period at least. The Academy boys are laying out a ball field with a mule and horse pulling the plow and scraper. The Epworth League is slowly assuming shape. Bethel is still in the swim - every time it rains. Someone was taking aloud about side walks but none seem to be growing.

Sandbox- The biggest ballot frauds are the fellows who sell their votes.... the men who win the greatest battles are those who conquer themselves..... The C P Church at Selmer will have Rev. W.J. Williams as pastor for another year. Joe John Adams is getting to be the most

popular bachelor in town. Wood is now \$1.50 a cord. Corn is selling on the river at \$1.50 per barrel.... Sheriff Carroll went gunning Wednesday in the region of Bethel and brought home four squirrels all by himself with the aid of one man, a dog and the southbound M & O train.... W.K. Abernathy was mingling with the representatives elect at the Institute and we heard enough to know that the man who beats him will be the next speaker of the house of representatives.

The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gillespie died Wednesday. It had been dangerously ill for several days with the throat sickness.

Died – Mrs. Noah Cantrell, age about 70, died at her home in Selmer, Nov. 20, 1902 with pneumonia. She leaves a husband and several grown children, among whom are E.T. Cantrell and Mrs. J.T. Warren of Selmer. She was buried today at Shiloh.

A dispatch from San Antonio, Texas, bring the said news of the death of Mrs. Ida Hill Parrish on Wednesday night. Her remains will be here Saturday morning for interment in the Selmer cemetery. Her demise was not unexpected. We extend to her devoted mother, husband, brother and sister, our sincere condolence. (Burial Oak Hill Cemetery.)

A bold robbery was perpetrated last week by three men on a farmer by the name of Jones living near Gravel Hill. He was on his way back from Corinth where he had taken three bales of cotton. And he was in Muddy Creek bottom in a dark spot, a man instantly appeared behind him in his wagon and covered him with a revolver and at the same time two others took the horses by their bits and soon he showed up over \$100 and was told to depart. We understand that three men on horseback passed him a few minutes before he entered the dark bottom. If so it is clear they were the robbers and such a clew followed up would show who these three men were, as they could not have followed him without some one having met or seen them on the road. We understand no one has any idea as to who the guilty robbers are and that no steps are being taken to ferret out the guilty parties.

Personals: Visiting in Selmer were: John R. Hurley of Stantonville, Gib Scott of Adamsville, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Craver and pretty baby, Winburn of Dyer. Pink Wallace and Miss Lula Carroll spent Sunday in Adamsville. Attorneys J.C. Houston and Terry Abernathy were engaged in a law suit last Friday at Leapwood. Oscar Wooten and Frank Crocker, the rural carriers, visited John Ramer, Esq. in the 18<sup>th</sup> district. Dr. O.H. Parnell of Florence, Ala., has been at the curry Hotel for the past two weeks doing some fine dental work.

Water mill meal: my mill runs for customers every Tuesday and Saturday. J.W. Purviance.

For rent: the Raines farm on Crooked Creek, about 60 acres of first class bottom land and two sets of houses. Also nearby what is known as the John Middleton place, a two horse crop, one set of building. Enquire at this paper.

## **December 2, 1902**

All of front page given to Theodore Roosevelt's annual communication upon questions of importance to the nation.

On Nov. 1, 1902, 11,650 rural free delivery routes has been established and in operation. Awaiting the establishment of 10,748 additional routes.

The White House has been restored to what it was planned to be by Washington.

We have owned Alaska for 25 years and they need wise legislation.

The official vote for Tennessee governor: Frazier (D) 98,954; Campbell (R) 59,002.

Mr. Bradley of McNairy sent us a radish that weighed 6.5 pounds. It was solid and perfectly regular in shape.

Hens will not lay much if too fat. Yet they may be starved so they will not lay at all.

No small patch of ground will furnish as much hog feed for a lazy farmer as an artichoke patch. One planted it is there forever, and the hogs will do their own gathering and planting. They will always leave enough tubers in the ground for the next year. Fence off an acre and try it. Plant like Irish potatoes at first.

Michie: We think every up-to-date country village should be represented in the county. We do not claim to be the garden spot of McNairy County, tho' it is as good as the average. This place was formerly known as Pea Ridge, a name, applied, no doubt, in derision, and one not very flattering to the fertility of the surrounding country. Messrs. Carroll & Sammons Bros. are the business men of the village.

The ginning business has been fairly good with near 300 bales already ginned. We have a daily mail from Corinth and a tri-weekly mail from Acton and other points. This is on a line of the Hurley telephone and we have connection with all important points.

The school of this part of the county are getting on nicely. G.A. Michie is teaching at Tulu. He rides home every day. David Carroll and Edgar Farris of the Selmer High School visited home last week. Marshall Gilton shot himself in the leg last week while playing with a pistol. Tom McCollum went to Hamburg Friday. Jim Graham has moved to Texas. Signed E.

Rose Creek: the people in our neighborhood are about done picking cotton. The literacy society at Moore's School House is still progressing. Misses Jessie and Evie and Messrs. Ben and Finley Lockman attended Thanksgiving service at Bethel. There will be singing at Rowsey's School House the second Sunday. A new sawmill will be located here soon. Mentions Orlene Basham, Dora and Jo Williams, Rubie Williams, Will Graham and daughter Maude.

Bethel Springs: The first entertainment of the Young Men was a success in more ways than anticipated. (Basketball game). The final score place 60 to 36 in favor of the Reds. The program began at 7:35. Introductory address, President Epps. Recitation Miss Pauline Stovall. Recitation Mr. Prince Etheridge. Duet Messos Ernest Stovall and Ernest Epps. Reading J.L Soule. During the wait for the game Mr. Soule rendered Thanatopsis and spoke on the needs of the school. Next game at Selmer! Have you all a time. Get one, nothing like it. Mrs. Alice Kernodle is visiting her brother O.J. Stovall. Miss Newsome is making things lively for some of our folk -whether for her valiant brother-in-law, he of the wonderful name (tis said he's no kin to Davy Crockett, tho) or to some younger men, your scribe won't venture to say, til she leaves town and he has change to count the broken hearts. She has two unmarried sisters, good looking, but she is the handsomest one of the family. O.J. Stovall brought 56 bales of cotton Tuesday in honor of the rain clearing off.

Selmer Hotel, Mrs. M.M. Halstead, Proprietress. Everything kept in first class order. Clean rooms, white cooking and the table as good as the market afford. Traveling rate \$1.00 per day.

I always have something in the way of food milch cows, young heifers, grade Red Polls and pure breeds for sale. Also mules of any age. J.W. Purviance.

John B. Jopling - Dentist - all work guarantee. Lady Assistant in Attendance.

Sand Box....Wednesday was like a spring day. Clark Kendall (col) the cattle-rusher, landed in jail Tuesday night. He had mortgaged his neighbors cattle to T.A. Smith, who is in the hole, unless Clark' financial friends come to his relief..... The divorce mill in chancery court did not have many grists.... At Hickory Valley, Tenn, a big broom factory to be put up next season..... Capt. J.H. Reed had a law suit in chancery court.....J.W. Stumph is having the Williams building overhauled and second floor for private rooms and offices....Every other day it rains and blows. Every other day it is clear and nice.

Personals: James Gooch, of Gravel Hill, made us a pleasant call. He is with the firm of John Gooch and a hustling businessman. William Wallace of Dyer county has been gathering up cattle this week. Mr. Wallace being an old McNairian knows ever cow path in the county. Rev. Lee Sanders changed his new field to Kirksey, Ky. L.A. Lockman, the old reliable of the second district spent Monday night at the Selmer hotel. C.V. Brown recently purchased his father's interest in the drug store at Finger and will now conduct the business himself. He is a graduated chemist.

We regret to hear of the death of Mrs. B.F. Darby at her home last week near Ramer. General Marcus J. Wright of Washington, D.C. was in our town last Friday. He met with Col. J. H. Duke of Jackson and they spent several hours viewing the scenes of their boyhood days in Purdy.

Attention Ladies! A Wife Wanted. Description: between 20 and 40 year of age. Not over 5 feet high. Weight no over 100 pounds. Brown hair, light complexion. Any one filling these conditions please write me and I will answer or return letter. I am a pensioned soldier and have brought land near Purdy for a honery. Write, girls, and I will give particulars. Address P O Box 57, Purdy, Tenn.

New Brooms, Sweep Clean. Call at Independent ware rooms for brooms. Made in McNairy and out of McNairy corn. Better and cheaper than any brought on. Sold only by the dozen. Merchants take note.

Chancery Court cases:

W.J. Massengill et al vs E.W. Thompson. Order sale of property confirmed.

J.P.H. Smith, Adm. vs N. Smith et al. Continued.

J.T. Davis et al vs Joe Faulkner et al. Dismiss at cost of complainant.

Mrs. R.N. Sanders et al vs Mrs. America Sander. Report of sales confirmed.

J.R. Adams vs J.H. Reed. Decree in favor of complainant. Appeal taken and granted.

G.E. Sipes et al vs N.T. Cook et al. Continued by defendant.

J.L. Hill vs Alice Hill. Order to speed cause,

Gale Draper Jr. vs W.B. Aldridge et al. Report of sale confirmed.

Jesse Gooch et al vs J.A. Moore. Sale confirmed.

W.C. Carroll vs J.W. Matlock, continued by complainant.

R.D. Utely vs Creecy Utely. Continued.

Ada King vs George King. Report of sale confirmed.

A.M. Coffman vs D.R. Hurst. Complainant allowed to file supplement,

Alfred McCullar et al vs W.H. Stone et al. Demurrer allow. Case dismissed if demurrer reached.

J.N. Minton vs W.F. Minton. Complainant filed supplement.

J.R. Stovall vs A.H. Weaver et al. Demurrer overruled.  
E.F. Hendrix vs J.H. King et al. Demurrer overruled and defendant allowed 30 days.  
Sarah A. Dillon vs E.H. Dillon. Re division of estate.

Teacher's Institute to meet at Lane's Academy Second Saturday in Dec. A.S. Brisco and Prof. Soule will speak on the benefit of public schools. Other on program: Hugh Hodges, C.I. Wilkerson, M.A. James, Terry Abernathy, C.B. Ijams, W.K. Abernathy, C.H. Poole, M.E. Lee, H.G. Hodges, H.H. Robison, Mac Archer, J.I. Leath, Fielding Maness, C.V. Brown, J.T. Robison. There will be a debate "Resolved that America will reach her zenith and fall." Those debating affirmative: C.E. Wilkerson, Horry Hodges. Negative W.K. Abernathy and H.G. Hodges. Journal, Maggie Hodges. Signed com: Maggie Hodges, Maud Lain, Fielding Maness.

John B. Jopling: Dentist. Lady Assistant in attendance.

Selmer School notes: School is progressing nicely. We now have over 160 students. The school is divided into four literary societies, the Philomatheon, Union Literacy, Primary and Secret. They are all doing good work. Hillard Carothers, Ed Farris and D.E. Carroll visited among home folks last week. Mr. Terry Abernathy opened a nice class in penmanship. There are 85 in the class.

### **December 12, 1902**

Work is soon to begin on Colbert Shoals above Florence, Ala. Within a year it is thought the Tennessee river will be navigable all year from Chattanooga to Paducah. Now during about three months boats can not cross the shoals on account of low water.

While in Corinth this week, we learned that the McNairy County trade there was not enjoyed as heretofore, owing we infer from the fact that our own county merchants carry what the people want and at prices quite as reasonable as the Corinth merchants. When our people learn to spend their money at home instead of in towns in other counties and state, they have taken a long step in the right direction. If our merchants would push their business half as hard to get trade and hold it, they would also take a long step in the right direction. Every enterprise and every dollar spent and kept in a county, goes that far towards advancing every person in the county. McNairy County has produced untold thousands of dollars which have gone to build up other points. No money has ever been brought here from elsewhere. So if we would keep without our borders what we make here, soon McNairy County would be one of the richest in the state.

A mixture of a pint of kerosene with a gallon of buttermilk, stirring rapidly until well mixed, applied once a week will kill all vermin or lice on calves. It will also remove all mites on the roosting places of Chickens if they are thoroughly washed with it.

It does not pay to keep old hens that do not lay but one or two setting a year. A heavy breast is not a sign of a good layer.

Sandbox: The attempted poisoning of P.M. Baker last week is still a query. It is the consensus of opinion that a girl living at his house, concerning whom there has been some trouble, is the one who made the biscuit that killed the cat that Peter fed the biscuit to after he found that it was bitter..... A strange coincident in the deaths within three days of three

prominent men, each named Tom: Tom Reed, Tom Ochiltree and Tom Nast (don't know if this was county news or national news.).....

This will be a lively Christmas as everybody is sober and in good spirits.....Uncle Sam's rural route carriers look like western brigands, in their slickers and gloves....a nice brick walk from the bank to Pharr Avenue on Third Street makes a lot of people happy..... P.H. Thrasher will soon begin to supply the eastern markets with fish from his crystal like fishery..... This week steps are being taken to build the Independent a new home.....Tuesday felt like spring.....

Personals: Prof. J.D. Mullens and county court clerk Moore, accompanied by Misses Beatrice Grisham and Mae Derryberry, attended the teacher's meeting near Shiloh Saturday. The house occupied by John Tims on Highland Ave and owed by T.M. Humphrey was destroyed by fire Saturday night. This is the second house burned for Mr. Humphrey this year.

Visiting in Selmer: Dr. Henry Hodges, Mr. and Mrs. Crockett of Bethel Springs, A.T. Smith and family of Oxford Creek, Orlan Smith of McNairy, Misses Pearle Stone, Nannie Prince and Pearl Abernathy, Edgar Thrasher and wife of Corinth.

G.W. McCullar attended to business in Chewalla, Saturday.;

Jopling and Anderson fill a long line of trade needed in the county, to wit: ladies dress goods and millinery emporium.

### **December 19, 1902**

Septimus Wrinner, author of "Listen To The Mocking Bird," and other famous songs, died last week in Philadelphia. He wrote the song in 1852 and sold it for \$5. The man who bought the song made \$3,000,000.

35 hours of incessant downfall. Never in the memory of the oldest citizen has such a flood visited this vicinity as that of Sunday and Monday. The rain began Sunday morning and continued until Monday evening. There were no intermissions of a steady rain and many times terrible downpours. Cypress Creek reached a new stage within a few inches, if not equal to the high mark of 1882.

Between here and Bethel Springs at one point, Monday, the water was two feet over the railroad track, stopping the passing of trains until late Monday night. By Tuesday morning the high stage was over and what was a river a half mile wide was declining. No serious damage was done to the M & O railroad. The Southern between Corinth and Pocahontas had a bad wash out. Many bridges in the county were washed away or damaged. Tuesday morning was clear and cold and the sun was a welcome visitor.

Land transfers: P.T. Combs and wife to W.S. Combs 105 ac \$223

P.T. Combs to Arch Combs 35 ac \$167

Robert Kendrix et al to T.B. Kendrick - ac \$225

John L. Jones and wife to O.E. Jones, 50 ac \$40

W.H. Case to F.G. Wilson, 129 ac \$700

E.H.T. Garrett to M.C. Garrett, 228 ac \$300

J.T. Warren to R.B. Scott, 21 ac \$100

M.S. Huggins to J.R. Gooch, 1/4 ac \$50

R.D. Sutton to S.D. Farris 75 ac \$100  
 James Knight to A.C. Williams – ac \$50  
 Wm. Dodds & Co. to G.A. Brown, 36 ac \$200  
 Alvin Mills to W.P. Massey, 103 ac \$850  
 J.E. Hamilton and wife to J.R. Wesson, 3 ac \$50  
 A.M. Dickey to Buddie Perkins, 2 ac \$350  
 Buddie and Sam Perkins to R.A. Mills, 2 ac \$350  
 G.A. Sipes and wife to J.W. Sharp, 120 ac \$650  
 J.L. Phillips to R.G. Stanley, 20 ac \$75  
 S.M. Perkins to W..F and J.E. Dollar, 2 ac \$1,000  
 J.L. and Fred Emmons to R.E. Emmons – ac \$21150  
 Job Maxedon to L.A. Prather, 51 ac \$100  
 C.W. Sipes Sr. to J.M. Littlefield, – ac \$500  
 J.G. George and wife to F.M. Alexander, 105 ac \$300  
 J.H. Terry to J.C. Beaty, one town lot \$200  
 G.A. Sewell to W.T. Younger, 85 ac \$580  
 J.E. Hamilton and wife to J.H. Crum, 68 ac \$500  
 T.H. Brisco and wife to J.H. Crum, ½ ac \$900  
 Wm. Ruleman to W.M. & Clara Seaman, 180 acres \$200  
 A.H. Lewis et al to W.M. Lewis, 217 ac \$70  
 W.C. Coleman and wife to C. Foster, 232 ac \$300  
 W.E. Tedford and wife to J. – Alexander, one town lot \$250  
 Mary Lowder and husband to John W. Shaw, 18 ac \$203  
 R.T. Atkins and wife to J.W. Marler, 160 ac \$400  
 S.A. Pryon and wife to Haywood Hair, 200 ac \$150  
 Albert Gillespie, C & M to J.C. Hair, 240 acres \$200  
 Gracie Battle to Will K. Abernathy, house and lot \$325  
 Will K. Abernathy to Mrs. Ann Curry, house and lot \$325  
 H. McRimmon to G.W. Plunk, 33 ac \$75  
 S.E. Weeks and wife to Jim Williams, 100 acres \$200  
 R.D. Mills to J.W. Gray, 85 ac \$300  
 G.W. Higginbottom and wife to W.P. Hurley, 35 ac \$50  
 H.M. Wells to L.J. Dillon, 80 ac \$100  
 J.L. Smith and wife to J.E. Kerby, 160 ac \$300  
 H.E. Melton and wife to Isaac James, 175 ac \$1,000  
 Mrs. Clavinda Cook to A.M. Cook, 100 ac \$188  
 Mrs. Clavinda Cook to J.A. Cook, 100 ac \$133  
 C.C. Stancil to J.W. Stancil, 292 ac \$250  
 T.B. Moss and wife to J.W. Stancil, 292 ac \$210  
 Rosa Sheffield to J.O. Smith, town lot \$90

Sand Box: High waters cleared the bottom lands of mice and moles - some benefits at least to the farmers by the flood.....Selmer will soon have a shoe and harness repair shop by a man from Corinth..... Chip in and put up the monument to McNairy's pioneer citizens..... Joplin

and Anderson's show windows would be a credit to a big establishment in the large cities.

After the Purdy benedict gets his little wife, Joe John Adams says he will turn his case over to us for similar results..... fences along the creek suffered severely by high waters... both the Selmer bridges were considerably damaged by the high waters.

Personals: S.R. Gibson is seriously ill at his home on West Court. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crocker have moved into the Powers residence on Court Ave. Drs. Hodges, Mitchell and Smith were busy examining applicants for pensions Wednesday.

T.J. Wolverton has spending several days with his daughter Mrs. Lum Alexander. Robert Fortune and family left for Dyer county where they may spend the winter. He started by land in two Kansas schooners. Alva Hudibery and John Bigbee, students of Selmer High School visited Olive during the rainy days. Mr. Hudibery was compelled to swim several creeks in order to take his part in the concert tonight.

Visitors In Selmer: M.E. Shelton of Cypress; S.K. Wallace of Otterville; Guy Chambers of Pittsburg Landing; Miss Juanita Kelsey of Ramer; Emmet Chamness of Adamsville, John H. Cude of Cairo, W.A. Gooch of Gravel Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Orlan Smith of McNairy community,

T.J. Floyd of the 8<sup>th</sup> district. Misses Maggie and Lutie Carman of Falcon. Mrs. W.E. McLeod of near Stantonville, Mrs. Arthur Harris and baby, T.M. Miller of near Adamsville, Mrs. Rebecca Chamness and sister, B.H. Oneal of the Leapwood vicinity. J.W. Roberson, stock dealer of Ramer.

John R. Erwin of Henderson, Bud Olive of Texas, James McDougal and family of Arkansas, Oscar Wooten of the 18<sup>th</sup> district, Miss Nebraska Derryberry from Chewalla.

#### Marriage Licenses:

D.C. Green to Tave Dobbins	Victor Canady to Lucy Lee
Ed Wagoner to Rasyle Bearden	Calvin Mullins to Celia Burrow
T.C. Graham to Gazelle Morris	Walter Hopkins to Mattie Sawyer
Arlie Kernodle to Nora Lain	Carl McIntyre to Donie Johnston
W.R. Owens to S.J. Weaver	T.M. McDaniel to Avy Wright
J.R. Burks to Minnie Farris	Joe Floyd to Annie Jackson
Frank Crocker to Bula Williams	Lee Basinger to Lola Crocker
Henry Wilson to Leona McGee	

A most elegant marriage event took place at the M E Church Wednesday night when Mr. Lee Basinger and Miss Lola Crocker were united in the holy bonds of matrimony. Little Bunchie Brown opened the way for the maids and Montie Smith for the groomsmen. Maid of honor was Miss Lille Pearle Prather. Bridesmaids were Miss Jennie Lou Jopling and Miss Alpha Scott. Arthur H. Olive was best man and J. Louis Adams and John R. Erwin were groomsmen. Miss Beatrice Grisham provided the music. The party retiring and taking carriage to their new home on the corner of Sixth and Pharr, which was in readiness to receive them. The reception, where dainty refreshments were served, was given at their home to a select few. The bride is the only daughter of P.M. Crocker. The groom is a clerk in the McNairy County Bank.

Proposed Monument To The Early Settler of McNairy County, and Purdy, at Selmer: To the citizens of McNairy County: An effort has been in progress for some time to raise by subscription a sum of money to erect at Selmer a suitable monument to the early settlers of the

county. The men to whom the monument is proposed to be erected, were the brave pioneers who came to the wilderness and endured all the hardships incident to a frontier life, hewed down the forests, cut the cane, built cabins and laid the foundations of society in the county. It is surely a fit and proper thing that their descendants now living would manifest their appreciation of their brave and worthy ancestors in an appropriate manner. It is a fact that the best lessons are those learned from other lives, from heroic examples and superior conduct and character. Such lessons tend to make good citizens and to create a pride of ancestry which is ever to be commended. This appreciation can best be accomplished by a fitting monument on which the names of the early settlers shall be inscribed, placed in the handsome and thriving town of Selmer, the seat of justice for the county and placed near the new and commodious court house.

It is therefore deemed proper to call upon all descendants of the pioneers residing in the county, as well as other citizens who feel a pride in their county and town to make contributions to the fund.

Besides the names of the early settlers, it is proposed to have inscribed upon the monument the date of the establishment and organization of the county and of the town of Purdy and of the removal of the county seat to Selmer, and a suitable motto.

All citizens are solicited to contribute any sum, no difference how small and to pay it over to Mr. John Robert Adams, cashier of the McNairy County Bank, at Selmer, who will act as treasurer for the fund. Very respectfully, Marcus J. Wright.

To our subscribers: We like to keep up with the procession on Christmas week; and therefore will not be on hand next week. Try to get along without us for one week and we will you. An invitation to take Christmas at Memphis is so strong we cannot resist and therefore wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Independent.