

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OUR MEETINGS

Meetings are held the third Saturday of the month in Jan., Mar., May, July and Sept.

Meetings begin at 1:00.

There is no charge.

Members and visitors are always welcome.

*Check our website for last-minute changes:
www.mtgs.org*

Saturday, January 18th

1:00 p.m.

Tenn. State Library & Archives

Genealogy Show and Tell

Bring an interesting photo, document or artifact from your family's history, and share the story of your item with the group.

Saturday, March 14th

1:00 p.m.

At the Brentwood Library

Understanding Census Records for African-American research *featuring Taneya Koonce*

Whether your ancestors were black or white, census records hold amazing information.

Expert genealogist Taneya Koonce will show how to mine these records for all they are worth.

For more information about events, visit the MTGS web site mtgs.org or contact

Virginia Watson at ginnyology@comcast.net

Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History

Volume XXXIII, Number 3, Winter 2020

Table of Contents

From the Editor	98
Reminiscences of Charlotte Pike (Nashville) by Meritt Scott Pilcher, 1934	99
Congressional Investigation of the 1868 Election: Part 2, Testimony from Lincoln County.....	103
Murder of Ova Davis, Putnam County 1887 (Part 2) by Mitzi Freeman	113
Nashville and the Industrial Removal Office by Jean Roseman	121
Middle Tennessee Businesses, 1868 (part 3) From <i>King's Nashville City Directory</i>	133
Book Reviews..... by Shirley Wilson	142

*Journal Policy and Information
Inside Back Cover*

**Middle Tennessee
Genealogical Society, Inc.**

Board Members

President:	Carolyn Lallemand
Vice President:	Sue Forshee Cooper
Recording Secretary:	Melanie Carter
Treasurer:	David Brown
Past President:	Kay Gregath
Directors:	Gary Coin Robert Cullen Mike Duncan Linda Henson
Webmaster:	Jim Long
Mail Master:	Gary Coin
Book Review Editor:	Shirley Wilson
Workshops Coordinator:	Virginia Gooch Watson
Publicity Chairman:	Bonnie Winn
Newsletter Editor:	Jim Long
Journal Editor:	Charles A. Sherrill

Contributors in this issue

Mitzi Freeman
Jean Roseman
Shirley Wilson

From the Editor . . .

The Annual Seminar in November featuring Dick Eastman was a big success; it was great to see so many of you there. Planning for next year's seminar will begin right away at the January board meeting. Your board members and others stay busy keeping the Society's calendar full of interesting programs.

In this issue we begin with a charming memoir recorded by Merrit Pilcher who grew up in Nashville in the 1850s and 1860s. Also featured is an article from our long-time member Jean Roseman, noted author and unofficial historian of the Jewish community in Nashville. Her research into an early 19th century effort to settle new Jewish immigrants in the American heartland brings to light new information about Nashville's participation in the effort.

We return to the Congressional election of 1868 in Middle Tennessee, this time featuring testimony from dozens of men in Lincoln County about their difficulties after the war and experiences with the Klan. Both white and African-American perspectives can be seen in this fascinating record of a frightening time in our history.

Mitzi Freeman's story of the murder of Ova Davis continues in this issue. It is the sad story of a troubled young man who committed murder due to unrequited love.

Chuck Sherrill
M.T.G.S Journal Editor

Formerly *Middle Tennessee Genealogy*. Published quarterly by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society, Inc., a not-for-profit society, P.O. Box 682263, Franklin, TN 37068. © 2019. All rights reserved. Opinions expressed in the *Journal* are of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society or the editor. See inside back page for *Journal* submission instructions.

Yearly memberships include four issues of the *Middle Tennessee Journal of Genealogy & History*. Make check or money order payable to MTGS. Annual dues are \$25.00 beginning June 1 of each year. See back cover for details and application form.

Printing arranged by Bruce Woodard, Brentwood, TN. Cover design by Dorothy Williams Potter. Indexed in the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI).

Visit our website at <http://www.mtgs.org>

Reminiscences of Charlotte Pike (Nashville)

by Meritt Scott Pilcher, 1934



Approximate location of the Barrow farm on a modern map of West Nashville

The following reminiscences about the Charlotte Pike were written in 1934 by Meritt Scott Pilcher in his eighty-fourth year. Mr. Pilcher was born 7 May 1850 to Meritt Pilcher the 1st and Nancy Barrow. The father was a native of Woodford County, Kentucky. The Barrows lived on Charlotte Pike in Nashville. Mr. Pilcher operated a wholesale grain business for many years. He died in Nashville on 28 July 1936, at the age of 86.

The reminiscences are just one item among many family papers found in the Catherine Berry Pilcher Avery Papers at the Tenn. State Library & Archives. (Accession 71-109, box 9, folder 6.)

Nashville, Tennessee

February 28, 1934

I was born May 7, 1850, on the Charlotte Pike two and one half miles west from the Davidson County Court House on what was called later Barrow's Hill.

My grandfather, Matthew Barrow, came to Nashville about forty five or fifty years before my birth. As a boy I heard that my grandfather rode to Nashville on horseback from Georgia. He either located or bought land on the Charlotte Pike. His farm consisted of five or six hundred acres, probably more, on both sides of the pike. The land commenced at what is probably 26th Avenue which was then Old Hyde's Ferry Road and Charlotte Pike. It ran northerly with 26th Ave. across Clifton Pike several hundred feet. From 26th Avenue and Charlotte Pike it ran southwardly one thousand or more feet and then between parallel lines it ran westwardly along Charlotte Pike at least one mile along the north side of the pike and nearly a mile on the south line of Charlotte Pike.

When my grandfather arrived he found that a free negro owned one acre of land which he could not buy. On this acre still stands the old log cabin at the top of the hill west of the NC and St. Louis Railroad shops, owned then by James Dungey. The last time I saw the cabin the roof was falling in. This piece of property greatly worried my grandfather

as no slave holder likes to have free negroes living near his slaves. My recollection is that this free negro's name was James Dungey. He was a barber and had a shop on Church Street.

Thomas Dungey	60	M	M	W	800	Virginia ✓
Sarah Dungey	49	F	M			Virginia ✓
John Dungey	33	M	M	W		Tennessee
Elijah Wilson	27	F	M			Tennessee
Isabel Wilson	30	M	M	W		Tennessee
Mary A. Dungey	24	F	M			Tennessee
James Dungey	23	M	M	W		Tennessee
Wm H. Wilson	10	M	M			Tennessee
Sarah E. Wilson	8	F	M			Tennessee
Geo H. Wilson	5	M	M			Tennessee
Wm H. Spencer	10	M	M			Tennessee

Thomas Dungey and his family, shown here in the 1850 Census of Davidson County, were among the few free black residents of Tennessee in this time period

Note James Dungey age 23. By 1860, James Dungey was listed as the head of household.

(1850 U.S. Census, Davidson Co. Tenn., Nashville, p. 141A, family #839)

My grandfather built his first home, a two story log and frame house on the hill beyond the west line of the New Shop property. There I think all his children were born. My mother was the first born in this old house. West of the house some two hundred feet distant was a family grave yard with a stone fence four or five feet high surrounding it. All of his family and five of my brothers and sisters dying in infancy were buried there. The area of the yard was about 50 by 75 feet. My mother was blessed with five other children all living to good age. I am the last, now nearly 84 years of age. When the land was finally about to pass into the hands of strangers we provided a lot at Mt. Olivet and had Mr. Cornelious [*sic*], an undertaker go into each grave. There was not much to move, only a few bones. In the grave of one of my grandfather's sisters was only a few bones but in the hair was a beautiful comb four or more inches high. My mother took this and I think it is now the property of my niece Mrs. Reau E. Folk. My grandfather's casket was in a perfect state of preservation. He died in 1855. It was an iron casket not like those we see now. It had elbows like old fashioned coffins. Mr. Cornelious said, "Oh, I remember, it was the first casket of this kind I used. I went to Cincinnati and got it." I remember that outside the fences of this old grave yard was a large bell pear tree. The largest I ever saw. The story told was that when my grandfather rode to Nashville he carried a pear switch which he planted. The large tree grew from it.

In 1808 my grandfather married Martha (Patsy) Childress, daughter of John and Nancy Hickman Childress, and my mother (Nancy Barrow) was born in 1812. After living in the log house for years my grandfather's slaves made brick where-the railroad shop now stands and built a large two story mansion on the hill opposite behind the present Van Blarcom station.¹ This house consisted of eight large rooms, four on each floor. They were very spacious, twenty or more feet square with high ceilings. There was a large attic above. A very wide hall extended through the middle of the house, having both a front and rear entrance. There was a porch at the front two stories high with roof at the top of the house and was wider than the width of the hall. The steps from the rear went down to a brick walk some-ten

¹ Located on Charlotte Pike at 31st Avenue, this was a depot of the Tennessee Central Railroad. It was named for St. Louis financier Jacob Van Blarcom (1849-1908) who was president of the railroad. E.D. Thompson, *More Nashville Nostalgia* (Nashville: Westview Publishing Co., 2004) p.77.

or fifteen feet wide extending along the width of the house. This walk had a roof over it and cellar doors led to a large basement where milk and butter were kept.

There was a long ell not connected with the house but to the roof of the walk. The first two rooms of the ell were for storage, one for food, the other for tools and harness used on the farm. There was a large kitchen and next to that a big smoke house and behind that out in the open a large contraption filled with ashes. Water being poured on the ashes the lye was caught to make soap for the farm.

I must mention the walls within the main house. They were spotlessly white. No wall paper in those days. The floors were hard wood and waxed very smooth and slick. There was a large wood fire place in each room. From the hall there was a beautiful winding staircase, unusual in that it extended to the third floor or attic.

The entrance to the property was on Charlotte Pike several hundred feet east of Van Blarcom Station [today]. A fine roadway was built directly up to the front of the house. Afterwards two circular roads were built meeting at the front of the house. The mansion was built in the center of about one and a half acres. Around this was a circular fence, I think built of cedar and inside this fence, both front and sides, my mother had flower beds. Several hundred feet west of the house were cabins for the negroes and several hundred feet still west were the stables, barn and corncribs.

My grandfather left three children who had heirs. His will provided for three-sixths to his children and three-sixths to his grandchildren. As some of these were quite young when he died the affairs were thrown into Chancery Court and between the lawyers and the court the place was about eaten up.

There was 150 to 200 acres of woodland at the western end of the farm and in one day during the war between the states the Yankees cut every single tree down to the ground. They had built breastworks on top of the high hills and they said they had to cut the trees so they could see both towards Nashville and away from Nashville. The hill on which the mansion was built was covered with thousands of hackberry trees. All of these were cut down.

The nearest place west of grandfather's land on the north side of the pike was the home of Abram L. DeMoss, a prominent lawyer. He married Miss Emma Childress. The next place west was the large farm of Mark Cockrill, extending from the Charlotte Pike to the Cumberland River and thence to Cockrill Bend. Then came Richland Creek and west of that the farm of Ben Cockrill. On the south side of Charlotte Pike were two brick houses; I do not recall the owners. West of them came the Byrd Douglas farm. He had a deer park extending along the Charlotte Pike. Behind the Douglas Place on Richland Creek was the Ed Childress farm. McConnel aviation field is located on this farm [today.] Beyond the Childress farm was the farm of Charlie Bosley, running thence to Harding Pike. Ed Childress owned the Charlotte Pike and toll gate and Gen. Harding owned the Harding Pike and toll gates.

Before I was born there was a small frame house located just west of Van Blarcom Station. I never saw this house, but I have seen the old well. It was filled with rock to keep the stock from falling in. It was occupied by a family named Robertson. These people afterwards bought on the corner of 26th and Charlotte Pike east of the Barrow lands. I never knew Mr. Robertson but Mrs. Robertson was a fine woman. She had five boys and one girl. The two oldest boys became large contractors in Nashville. Monroe Robertson and Theodore Robertson built many large buildings in Nashville before and after the war. Between 1840 and 1855 my mother made many silk quilts. One for each of her five children and also for her grandchildren then living. Mrs. Robertson quilted all of these quilts. I played and hunted with her two sons Joe and Eugene.²

When the war started we were living in the city, my uncle John Barrow being on the farm. When the Yankees came, the town being filled with soldiers, we moved out to the Barrow mansion. In our daily trip to the city we used passes to get through the picket lines. These were furnished us by the general in command. The pickets were stationed at the intersection of Clifton Pike and Charlotte Pike, about two miles from the public square.

At this time soldiers and thieves were so bad we applied for protection and a soldier guard was sent to live with us. These soldiers liked this because they had a good home and plenty to eat. While living in the Barrow home we had

²² Nashville City death certificate #115 issued in 1909: Paul Munroe Robertson, 8 Aug. 1838 – 22 Jan. 1909, a carpenter, son of Kit Robertson and Lucy Robertson, both of North Carolina. He was buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

an old faithful negro servant, Steve Pilcher. He took up the brick in front of our fire place and buried mother's silver in the sand underneath, where it remained safely during the war.

While there I had a large Newfoundland dog and if there was any-thing he disliked it was a blue coat Yankee. Our house was nearly a quarter of mile from the pike but if one of them stepped on the place he gave us warning.

About 1863 there being no schools in Nashville my father took myself and younger brother Alex north and put us to school at Notre Dame, Indiana. I saw no more of the war after that but I did get back in time to live through the Reconstruction.

My older brother Matt joined the Confederate Army. He was desperately wounded at Perryville, Ky. A good woman, a Mrs. Rochester living near Perryville, cared for him. There he and several other wounded men she had taken care of remained for several months. Father and mother went to Perryville to be with him. He was a prisoner while at the Rochesters. He was exchanged and sent back to his command and was again wounded at Franklin, Tenn. He was again fortunate. A good woman, Mrs. Carter, took him to her house. It is a noted place near Franklin. From there he was sent to Camp Chase in Ohio where he remained until the war was over. I must state that old Steve, our servant, would not accept freedom. We provided a home for him. He did not live long after the war. We buried him in the old family graveyard.

Page No. 48 inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in 10th District, in the County of Davidson State
of Tennessee, enumerated by me on the 17 day of June, 1870. 359

Post Office: Nashville Tenn Geo Beckwith, Asst Marshal.

<u>Mr & Mrs Hopkins</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>W. L. & M. L. Adams</u>	<u>N. Carolina</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>— Mary</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>— Susan</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Pilcher Stephen</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>Alabama</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>

**Stephen Pilcher, mulatto, age 70, is shown here in the 1870 census.
He was working as a cook on a steamboat and living with a couple named Hopkins.**

Somewhere between 1875 and 1880 the Chancery Court at the instance of the heirs ordered the farm sold. It was cut into parcels of 5-10-15 acres and some larger. The woodland was put in two tracts of over 75 acres each. It was hills rocks and stumps, hardly worth anything. My brother and I protested the sale as we said sold at auction it would not bring anything. So we agreed if they would sell we would buy. With one exception we bought every piece offered, either he or I buying. When it came to the large woody tract we bought in partnership. I think we paid as little as twenty or twenty-five dollars an acre for this. We kept this land for many years paying taxes. It paid us to hold it.

As a last bit of local color I should like to add that during the period between 1880 and 1890 or there abouts there lived on Clifton Pike on lands originally part of the Barrow estate a French woman who was called French Emily. She had a small plot of ground on which she raised vegetables If she had a husband I did not know. She daily went to Nashville by way of the Charlotte Pike. She had a small wagon pulled by a horse and on the seat beside her rode a large goose. When she stopped to sell to a customer, the lines were placed in the goose's mouth between the bills, thus holding the horse while she was on the ground. She was quite a character and known to all. Her name I have been told was Mrs. Goff.

M. S. Pilcher



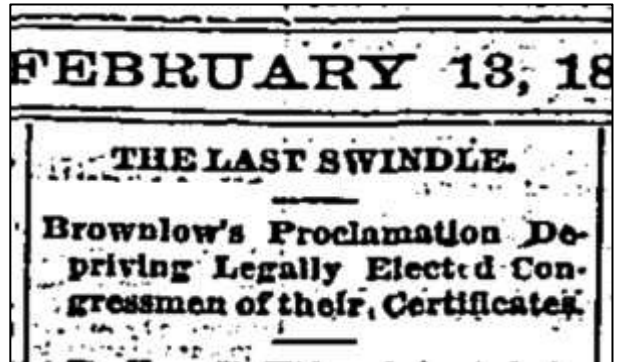
*The Pilcher and Barrow family Bible can be found on
the Tenn. State Library & Archives' Family Bible Project website: <https://tnsos.net/TSLA/Bibleproject/>*

Congressional Investigation of the 1868 Election

Part 2: Testimony From Lincoln County

Tennessee politics during the Reconstruction Era were contentious in the extreme. Former Confederates had been barred from voting, and men who had been slaves a few years earlier were being encouraged to go to the polls and support the Republicans – the party of Lincoln. The white slaveholders who had formerly held great control were mostly Democrats; they were shut out and frustrated.

Tennessee's 4th Congressional District was comprised of Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Marshall and Lincoln counties. Competing for the Congressional seat were Lewis Tillman, Republican, and Capt. Charles Sheafe, Democrat. Tillman was a Shelbyville man in his mid-50s who had served as clerk of various courts in Bedford County. Sheaf, a 35-year-old lawyer, had come to the area as a Union soldier and stayed after the war. The election was held on Nov. 3, 1868.



Despite all the control exerted by Brownlow and his cronies, voters overwhelmingly supported Sheaf, the Democratic nominee. Infuriated, Brownlow declared invalid all the votes from Lincoln County, and from several precincts in Coffee and Marshall. The Governor claimed that ex-Confederates voted illegally and that the Ku-Klux had frightened Republicans from going to the polls. Although he had no real authority to do so, Brownlow threw out the votes from those districts, causing Sheafe to lose. A major controversy and Congressional investigation followed.¹

More than 100 men from the district, both Democrats and Republicans, were called upon to testify in the Congressional investigation.² In the spring of 1869 an investigative team, led by Capt. Sheafe on one side and Tillman's agent Matthew Martin on the other, conducted hearings in Tullahoma, Fayetteville, Lewisburg, Winchester, Pulaski, Murfreesboro and Nashville. Witnesses were called by each side, questioned and then cross-examined by the opposing side. Witnesses to the proceedings were C.W. Stewart, Mayor and E.R. Bearden, Recorder. The following abstracts are summaries of the information provided by each witness.

For more details about the election controversy, see articles in the Fall 2019 issue of the *Journal* (vol. 33, no. 2).

Depositions taken at Fayetteville, Tenn., April 14 – 16, 1869, at the office of James W. Newman, Esq.

The following witnesses were summoned by N. Boon, Sheriff, H.B. Morgan, Deputy Sheriff, and Mims C. Jones, Special Deputy: Joseph G. Carrigan, Charles Wilson, M.C. Atkinson, Charles W. Stewart, Robert Farquharson, Alfred Bearden, William Stonebreaker and E.P. Reynolds all of Fayetteville; H.N.T. Shipp of the 8th district; W.C. Jennings of the 25th district; William Wood of Mulberry Village; David Tipps of Carmago; H.H. Bledsoe of Petersburg; D.B. Shull of Bell's Store. There is no testimony in the published report from Stonebreaker, Wood or Tipps.

¹ "The Last Swindle." *Republican Banner* [Nashville] 13 Feb. 1869, p.1.

² United States Congress, *Sheafe v. Tillman*, 41st Congress, 2nd Session, Misc. Document No. 53 (1869).

H.N.T. Shipp

Age 33, resident of district 7 in Lincoln County, occupation farmer. He was appointed commissioner of voter registration in Lincoln County in 1866. He saw the poll book in the hands of his predecessor Mr. Reynolds. He believes that poll book included about 1,900 hundred voters who had voted in 1865 when the constitutional amendment was proposed. Reynolds did not turn the poll books over to Shipp when he took office. The County Court clerk, John T Gordon, claimed they were stolen or lost. John T Gordon is no longer living. The registrations taken by Reynolds and Shipp were declared invalid by Gov. Brownlow just before the election in August 1867. He had registered 860 men and Reynolds had registered 249. Shipp asserted that no one got a certificate unless he was entitled to it under the law. Most got certificates on proof of loyalty; 60 or 70 were discharged soldiers; a few had commissions from the governor; others from having voted in one of the elections of 1865. Both Shipp and Reynolds had been officers in the 5th Tennessee Cavalry (Federal).

Shipp saw a dozen Ku Klux man pass his house twice one night in October of 1868. He saw three more in Fayetteville during the daytime. He believes that it was “the pillaging class” who dreaded the Ku Klux the most. Shipp had seven negro men on his place and said they did not seem to dread the Klu Klux. He knows of only 2 Republicans in his district. He is not certain that they voted. He was in Fayetteville on the day of the election for several hours. It was quiet in town and around the polls were “as quiet as I ever saw at an election.” When he was election commissioner the tickets returned by each voter, with the voter’s name on the back, were turned into the County Court clerk.

Charles S. Wilson

Age 33, a resident of Fayetteville, and a hotel keeper. He did not serve in either army during the war. At the time of the 1868 election he was Coroner of Lincoln County, and the election was held under his superintendence. Just three weeks before the election Governor Brownlow dismissed A.H. Russell, the county commissioner of voter registration, and declared all certificates issued by Russell invalid. On Nov. 2nd the County Court decided the election should be held as scheduled on Nov. 3rd despite the Governor’s order. Sheriff F.W. Keith was directed to hold the election but refused to do so, saying it was not possible to organize polling places and election officials. The court then ordered Wilson, the Coroner, to organize the election. At the time of the testimony the Governor had still not appointed a new commissioner of registration. [C.S. Wilson age 34 and his family, all born in Tenn., are listed in Fayetteville in Lincoln County’s 8th District in the 1870 census. He was a hotel keeper and reported \$13,000 in property.]



Fayetteville home of Charles S. Wilson and wife Mary Lauderdale, built in 1870, as posted by a descendant on Ancestry.com (tomnbecky1)

There were 25 civil districts in the county, but Wilson was only able to appoint deputies, judges and clerks to hold elections in seven districts: Petersburg; Commons; Grocis; Cannargo; Arnsolds; McKinney's and Fayetteville. They did not allow anyone with a voting certificate signed by Russell to vote; it was known that Russell had charged people 25-cents to register. Certificates signed by Mr. Carey and Mr. Bloom were valid. The election results were 113 for Sheafe and 1 for Tillman.

Wilson said he had frequently seen groups of Ku-Klux riding through town. He had seen as many as 285 riding together in July of 1868, and had seen others since Christmas. When asked if people considered it dangerous to speak out against the Klan, he responded "I have heard it condemned by hundreds of persons, and I, for one."

W.C. Jennings

Age 64, lives in the 25th district of Lincoln County, 15 miles from Fayetteville, is a farmer. No election officials came to his county, so as a justice of the peace he gathered judges and clerks, swore them in, and conducted the election himself. 14 votes were cast for Congress, all for Sheafe and none for Tillman. There were four negroes in the district, but only one voted. The others were Wilson Smith, Joseph Simmonds and Alexander Cooley. There are no white republicans in the district. Shortly before the election he saw five Ku-Klux riders pass his house. They grunted and groaned but did not say anything. [W.C. Jennings, age 65, and family are listed in Lynchburg, Lincoln County, in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$6,000 in property. The 1860 census lists him as Calvin Ginnings (*sic*) with over \$60,000 in property.]

Joseph G. Carrigan

Age 33, a resident of Fayetteville, occupation lawyer. He was a member of the state Senate elected in 1865 and a former editor of the *Lincoln County News*. After the disappearance of the poll books he learned from A.J. Fletcher, Secretary of State, that 1,755 voters in Lincoln County had approved of the constitutional amendment, and one voted against. Those numbers were certified by John H. Steelman, Sheriff. Precincts reporting were Fayetteville, Mulberry Village, Camargo, Quicks, Cold Water, Petersburg and Lynchburg. In Aug 1865 colored men were not allowed to vote, but there were over 1,500 voters in the county. Most of the men who voted in 1865 have been unable to vote since, due to the destruction of the poll books and the proclamations of Gov. Brownlow invalidating the voter registrations made in the county "when the same did not suit him." At the election in August 1867 a company of soldiers "then called the Tennessee Militia" commanded by Capt. Grisham were marched up in front of the courthouse in Fayetteville on the day of the election. They stood with fixed bayonets at the courthouse door and voters had to go through them before they could deposit their ballots. "Brownlow's militia and the negroes had everything to themselves on the day of the election here." Similar things happened at other precincts in the Lincoln County where militia appeared with their arms in a threatening manner. On election day in November 1868 he "never saw a more peaceable quiet an orderly election in my life." He said not many voted in Fayetteville, but recalled a negro named Ab Todd who voted that day. He was acquainted with A.H. Russell, former commissioner of registration. Russell worked out of Carrigan's office and often consulted the lawyer in regard to his duties under the law. Russell was often urged to issue certificates illegally "but he in my presence always refused to do so." Russell did charge from 5 to 25 cents per registration, because, he said, the county had not provided for the printing of certificates and he needed to cover his expenses. He collected "a right smart list of fees."

Carrigan personally knew no one who had been attacked or threatened by the Ku-Klux, but he had seen groups of them in Fayetteville and heard of several "bad characters who had been severely treated" by them. When asked if he had heard of any republicans being whipped or injured he responded, "I have; and also conservatives and democrats." [J.G. Carrigan, age 34, and family are listed in the 1870 census of Fayetteville, Lincoln County. He was an Alabama-born lawyer reporting \$2500 in property.]

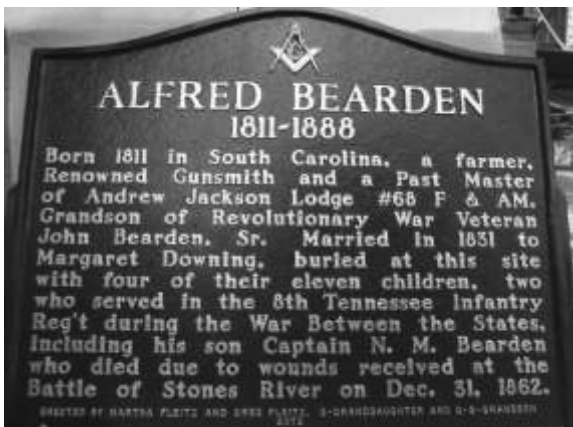
Charles W. Stewart

Age 27, resident of Fayetteville, a manufacturer. He was born in the north and served in the 74th Ohio Infantry and the 5th Tenn. Cavalry during the war. He came to Lincoln County as a soldier in Jan. 1865, mustered out in August of that year, and has remained. He was in Fayetteville all day on the last election day and all was done fairly and impartially. [C.W. Stewart, age 28, is listed in the 1870 census of Fayetteville, Lincoln County. He was an India-born manufacturer, living with Hiram Stewart age 60 born in Ohio. C.W. reported \$6,000 in property and Calvin reported \$10,000.]

M.C. Atkinson

Age 28, a resident of Fayetteville, a manufacturer. He was born in the north and was a sutler in service of the Union Army. He became a citizen of Lincoln County at the close of the war. His certificate of voter registration was issued by John Carey, and he voted for Sheafe in the recent election. He has seen Ku-Klux members several times, including at the election in Fayetteville in March 1868, generally not more than three or four of them together. Only people who conducted themselves improperly were afraid of the Klan, whether black or white, rebels or Yankees. He could name only one, Ben Holmes, who was taken by a party in disguise out of a store-room in Fayetteville and whipped for "various mean acts said to have been committed by him." [M.C. Atkinson, age 29, and family are listed in the 1870 census of Fayetteville, Lincoln County. He was an Ohio-born manufacturer and reported property valued at \$17,000.]

Alfred Bearden



Age 58, resident of Fayetteville, has been U.S. assistant assessor of internal revenue since Sept. 1866. He has been a citizen of Lincoln County since 1828 (and for a few years in Marshall County when it was created from Lincoln). The voting place in Fayetteville was at the courthouse, within 200 yards of Bearden's home. It was a remarkably quiet day and he saw no disorder or attempts to coerce voters. There was a company of soldiers present, under command of Brevet Major Lawrence, but he does not know why they were sent to Fayetteville. When asked about his own politics he said, "I do not know how to answer. I abominate extremes of every kind in religion, politics and everything else. I am now, and have ever been, a friend to the government. I claim the right to select the less evil, always."

Bearden had seen Ku-Klux men numerous times, including the night of August 1 when there were at least 200 of them. In Dec. 1868 he saw four at his farm 11 miles southwest of town. With one exception they behaved well and molested no-one. "Thy arrested Ben Holmes on the south side of the public square in Fayetteville and carried him off. The four that were at my farm . . . came into a dwelling on my place wet and apparently cold. After warming for a time, [they] informed me that my son, L.J.E. Bearden, had been thrown from his horse on that afternoon, and that his skull was thought to be broken from the fall. One of the party then called for writing paper, and wrote with a pencil a note addressed to Arch Tanner . . . advising him not to talk so much, which note he delivered to William Tillman, requesting him to hand the same to Arch Tanner. Soon after they left, stating that they had a long ways to travel." He does not know where Ben Holmes is now. Tanner was an unconditional Union man living near Carmago; he and the other two voters in his household were republicans. [A. Bearden, age 59, and his family are listed in the 1870 census of Carmago, Dist. 19, Lincoln County. He was a gunsmith born in South Carolina and reported \$13,300 in property.]

D.B. Shull

Age 51, resident of the 6th district of Lincoln County, a farmer. Has lived in Lincoln County since 1842, except for one year in Marshall County. He was the officer in charge of the election at the place called Grosses in Nov. 1868. Charles S. Wilson, county coroner, deputized him to hold the election. Forty-five votes were cast, all for Capt. Sheafe. Dance, Bell and Cole were the judges. W.A. Cole and W.C. Goodrich were the clerks. Shull does not know how many black men live in his district, but eight or ten voted on that day. He has heard of one or two instances of black men being whipped or cruelly treated by the Klan; has only seen Klan members twice, once in Fayetteville and once at Capt. Stone's. He himself was afraid to speak disrespectfully of the Ku-Klux. [D.B. Shull, age 52, and family are listed in the 1870 census of Mulberry, Dist. 6, Lincoln County. He was a Kentucky-born farmer who reported \$16,800 in property. Listings on Ancestry.com indicate his name was Daniel Boone Shull.]

H.H. Bledsoe

Age 28, resident of the 10th district of Lincoln County, a farmer. He did not serve in the war and was opposed to the rebellion, but his sympathies were with the south. He held the election in his district in Nov. 1868. Either Esq. Dyer or Esq. Hanaway swore the judges and clerks. No one voted on a certificate issued by Russell. Tillman received four votes, and Sheafe got 86. He knows of no Klan activity in his district. He voted for Sheafe. [Howell Bledsoe, age 29, and family are listed in the 1870 census of Mulberry, Dist. 6, Lincoln County. He was a Tennessee-born farmer reporting over \$13,000 in property.]



Howell Harris Bledsoe
(1841-1907)
Posted on Ancestry.com by Julie
Gage in 2010.

Robert Farquharson

Addressed as General Farquharson, age 54, resident of Fayetteville, occupation lawyer and clerk and master of the Chancery Court, formerly a colonel in the southern army. He was presiding judge of the county court before the rebellion, and for 1867 and 1867. He was elected in 1869 but "legislated out" by a law establishing the office of county judge. The poll books went missing in the spring of 1867. County court clerk John T. Gordon had them in his office, but when E.P. Reynolds was appointed commissioner of registration, Gordon handed them over to Reynolds. Reynolds claimed he left them tied in a bundle lying on the mantle-piece in the clerk's office, but Gordon denied that they were left in his care. Gordon has since died. Since Reynolds was removed from office no commissioner of registration has been named, though Farquharson has endeavored to have one appointed. On election day in Aug. 1867 Capt. Grisham commanded a company of militia posted in Fayetteville. Farquharson did not go to the polls but could see from his office, just 100 yards from the courthouse, that there was considerable excitement and disorder by soldiers as well as citizens.

Farquharson has seen several persons going about the streets of Fayetteville in disguise, "they were commonly called the Ku-Klux." A dozen of them called at his home one night and asked for water. He has seen groups of three or four about the streets and occasionally "calling at some gentleman's house."

On election day in Nov. 1868 he conversed with some men who were so-called radicals and encouraged them to vote. They declined to vote being apprehensive of something. "I do not think the white voters of that party were so apprehensive of danger from the Ku-Klux as they were fearful of giving offence to the leaders of their own political organization."

3. Robert Farquharson (1813-1869), a Scot who came to the United States about 1827 and settled in Fayetteville, was clerk and master of chancery court (1848, 1854-61, 1864-69), justice of the peace, chairman of the Lincoln County court, alderman and mayor of Fayetteville, and served several terms in the state legislature (1839-41, 1843-45, 1851-55), where, during the early forties he was a close friend of Andrew Johnson. An officer in the Tennessee militia, Farquharson had been a major in the Mexican War and in 1861 became colonel of the 41st Tenn. Inf., CSA; captured at Donelson, he returned to his regiment after being exchanged five months later. McBride and Robison, *Biographical Directory*, I, 241-42; *Goodspeed's Lincoln*, 771; see *Johnson Papers*, I, 112.

Notes on Robert Farquharson from *The Papers of Andrew Johnson* (Univ. of Tenn. Press, 1979),
Leroy Graf and Ralph Haskins, editors. Volume 5, p. 312.



*Depositions taken at Fayetteville, Tenn., May [?] – 24, 1869,
taken before E.R. Bearder, the Recorder of the town of Fayetteville.*

W.R. Wright

Age 33, a merchant residing in Fayetteville. He was born in the county and has resided in the town for about 23 years. He has seen people disguised as Ku-Klux on the streets of town and on the public square. Generally there were six to ten of them, and some were armed. He admits to being cautioned by some Ku-Klux to keep quiet about them, but could not say who told him this. Wright believes it would have been dangerous, especially for white and colored Republicans, to speak against the Ku-Klux before the election. Although most colored people did not vote in the election, he does not believe they stayed home because of fear. He feels people of both races stayed at home mainly because they assumed the election had been cancelled due to the lack of an appointed election commissioner. Wright agrees that there has long been “a very kindly feeling between the great mass of the whites and the black men of this county.”

Witness knows of one man who was molested due to politics: state senator William Wyatt. The senator is considered an honest man. He is a member of the Covenanter church and is a zealot in religion and politics. The rumor is that he was slightly injured. Mr. Wyatt told Wright that the man who struck him was rebuked by other men in the Ku-Klux group that approached him. [The 1870 census lists W.N. Wright, retail merchant age 38, with a large family. He reported over \$7,500 in property. The 1860 census confirms that he was William N. Wright.]

James Kirkpatrick

Age 43, farmer, lives on Elk River about one and one-half mile from Fayetteville. He has seen Ku-Klux men twice: two of them at his own home and six or seven at the home of his father-in-law, Alfred Bearden, on the night Bearden's daughter was married. When they came to Kirkpatrick's home they made “what I consider very silly remarks.” At the wedding they came to the gate and some of the girls took cake out to them. They did not make any rough remarks or behave badly. But because of what he had heard about the Ku-Klux, he was afraid of them. Kirkpatrick is not interested in politics and did not vote. Of the 15 hands working on his farm, only two or three voted in the recent election.

Before the war Kirkpatrick felt he was treated kindly and fairly by his neighbors. During the war others tried to force him to “fight in a war that I did not want to fight in.” Later he was attacked by a group of nine bushwhackers – called out of bed near midnight, shot and robbed and forced to run from home to get inside the federal lines at Shelbyville. In the altercation two of them were killed and the others ran away leaving their horses hitched to his yard fence. They also left “five guns, five pistols, five sabers and two dead men in my possession.” He stayed there over two years. Since returning to the county he has been the subject of bitter prejudice, with rough remarks and taunting. “Yes, I am afraid to give my testimony in this case, I am afraid that it will stir up past strife.” He has heard numerous rumors of bad treatment by the Ku-Klux of people from both political parties but knows of none personally. Negroes who live on his farm have said that the Ku-Klux took their pistols and an old gun away from them. [The 1870 census lists John Kirkpatrick, a 42-year old Ohio native with his family in Lincoln County. He reported \$1,600 in property. The 1860 census lists him as James Kirkpatrick, a trader from Ohio.]

Elisha R. Lusk

Age 25, a carpenter living in Fayetteville. He is not sure whether he voted in the last election, but in the election for sheriff about a year ago he was shot at the polls. He does not think he was shot because of his political beliefs, but he would “rather not state” why he thinks he was shot. Logan Commons shot him once as he walked up and again when he ran out of the door. Lusk is a radical in political beliefs, and Commons is a conservative. Lusk had previously spoken out about the negro’s right to vote. [The 1870 census lists E.R. Lusk, a 26-year old carpenter, race white, with a probable wife and two children in Lincoln County. He reported about \$400 in property.]

R.L. Commons’ Missouri death certificate (right)
Shows he was born in Fayetteville in 1827.
This man could be the Logan Commons who shot Lusk.

Nelson Edmondson

Age about 34 “I do not know exactly”, a farmer residing on Mr. Kirkpatrick’s place near Fayetteville, colored. Four groups of men dressed as Ku-Klux visited his home, twice before the election and twice after. The groups numbered from two to four men each. The first group asked him if he were going to vote, and when he said he was not, they encouraged him to go and vote for Seymour. He told them he thought it would be “best for me not to have anything to do with it.” They took his pistol and gun. He did not vote because he was afraid of the Ku-Klux. Other colored men of the neighborhood have told him they voted for Seymour and Sheafe because they were afraid not to. These included Fountain Townsend, Kiah Kimes and Franklin Brister. Ab Todd brought Townsend to town, saying he was needed to give evidence in a trial. But when they got to town, Townsend was told to go and vote for Seymour.

In Edmondson’s view, the colored people of the county were afraid to vote in the election. They are also afraid to give evidence in this dispute between Sheafe and Tillman. They are afraid they might be turned off from the farms where they are working. Edmondson’s father Kiah Kimes voted for Seymour; he was afraid not to, because his wife had been shot. Edmondson has a voter’s certificate given him by Mr. Bloom, a fellow member of the Union league. The league would not issue men a certificate unless they pledged to vote the radical ticket. He belonged to Mr. Edmondson and his father belonged to Mr. Kimes, but Edmondson raised them both. [The 1870 census lists N. Edmondson with Alice age 18 and three younger children. There are two separate listings in different districts, probably

because the family moved during the time the census was taken. In one entry “N” is shown as 30 years old, and in another he is 37. In one he is listed as black, and in the other as mulatto. In one he reported \$400 in property, but in the other he had none. The 1880 census shows Nelson Edmondson, age 45 with wife Alley aged 25 and a large family.]

Wiley Commons

Age 27, a blacksmith and resident of Fayetteville, colored. He is a republican in politics, but did not vote in the last presidential election because he felt it was better not to. Since last summer he has seen Ku-Klux men in town on 15 or 20 occasions, on one occasion perhaps as many as 100 of them together. One week he saw groups of them every night. He was not accosted or threatened, but he heard of two or three men who were severely whipped. Most colored men were afraid to vote because of the Ku-Klux. If they had voted, they would have voted for Grant and the republican ticket because “he was the man who set them free.” . [The 1870 census lists Wily Commons, a 27-year old blacksmith, race mulatto, with his family in Lincoln County. He reported \$300 in property.]

Daniel Norris

Age about 57, a farmer residing in Lincoln County on Berry Stone’s place, colored. He sometimes goes by the name of Stone, because he belonged to Norris who raised him, but he was sold to Stone. “I always sign my name Dan Norris, since my freedom.” Ku-Klux came to his house asking for guns and pistols; he hid his and they did not get it. One of them told him he had died in the fight at Manassas six years ago and had scratched his way out of the grave. He wanted water because he hadn’t had any since he died. Generally Norris hid in the bushes when he heard them coming. The Ku-Klux whipped his grandson Louis and Tom Stone. They were with a group of boys going down to the wash-hole, walking behind each other. The men accused them of drilling. They took Louis’ pants down and a man whipped him more than 20 lashes. Both the boys who were whipped were about 18; the other boys in the party were aged ten to 13. He has heard several colored men who lived on farms owned by democrats say they were afraid to vote because they might be driven away from their homes. Norris is afraid to vote and did not vote in the last election. He has not seen any Ku-Klux in the last three months, “I do not know what has become of them; I am sorter afraid they might come back again.” . [The 1870 census lists Daniel Norris, a 60-year old farmer with a large family, race black, in Lincoln County. He reported \$500 in property. Listed next to Norris is the household of Littleberry Stone, age 67, a white farmer with \$17,000 worth of property. Nearby is Harry Norris (age 47, black) and family including Louis Norris, age 18, a farm hand.]

John Thomas

Age 32, a farmer living on Norris Creek in Lincoln County, colored. Before the last election a group of ten or twelve Ku-Klux came to his house and accused him of raising arms against him; they then whipped him so badly he could not plow for two days. It was the worst whipping he had in his life. He knows of eight men in his neighborhood who were whipped by the Ku-Klux. On the night before the election three men came and gave him a certificate to vote and said if he did not vote the democrat ticket “there would be bad times afterward.” He went to the polls along with five other men who had been similarly threatened. [Not identified in the 1870 census.]

Basdel C. Cathrun [also written Celkin]

Age 38, a farmer living in the 6th district of Lincoln County. He saw Ku-Klux near his house three times, but they only came in once. A group came into his yard after midnight and three of the men entered the house with cocked pistols in hand. They asked if he was going to vote for Grant. He said he was if he lived long enough to vote. They cursed him and demanded he turn over his pistols and when he denied having any they tore up the house looking for guns. His wife begged them not to disturb a sick child in the bed but they did it anyhow. Just as they were leaving one of the men stopped and told the others he wanted to blow Cathrun’s brains out, but the others told him to come

on. He slept in the stable several nights to avoid the Ku-Klux. His nearest neighbors, 400 yards away, are new people. There are two houses in that yard; one is Russell, who is a “rebel throughout” and the other is Cowser, whose politics the witness doesn’t know. He did not vote in the following election. [The 1870 census lists Bazdel Cothrum, a 39-year old farmer, race white, with a large family in Lincoln County. He reported \$1,300 in property. J.P. Cowser, age 24, and M.P. Russell, age 36, and their families, are listed nearby.]

James T. Brown [also written James S. Brown]

He was born on April 11th and is 41 years of age, a farmer living on Norris Creek in the 6th district of Lincoln County. A group of Ku-Klux men came to his house at night before the election. As he explained:

They rode up and halloood at the house, and they came to the door and told me to let them in. Well, I got up and began to stir the fire up to make a light. They cursed me and told me to hurry and let them in; if I did not they would break the door down. They came in the house and give me a ticket and said I had to go to the election the next day and vote it; and I had to vote for Seymour and Blair and others, which had fought through the battles, they said. They said such folks as my sort should not rule the country any longer; they were going to take the day and rule it, and if I did not vote that ticket they would see me again. I told them I was not going to the election that day. They scared my wife pretty nigh to death; she was hallooding and going on. I told them not to scare my wife to death, if they pleased; and they said they did not aim to scare her to death.

Afterward he stayed away from home, afraid they would come back and whip him. He did not go to the election, although he would have liked to vote for the republican ticket. He was afraid someone would be watching at the polls and would see for whom he voted. [The 1870 census lists J.L. Brown, a 42-year old farmer, race white, with his family in the 6th District of Lincoln County. He reported \$2,200 in property.]

James W. Milton

Age 27, a blacksmith living in Lincoln County’s 6th district. Men dressed in Ku-Klux garb came to the house of Esq. Sam Bond’s where he was visiting. At the time he lived about five miles away, across the Alabama line. They insisted he come outside. He was in his night clothes and refused, but they dragged him out by force; they beat him with their pistols and hit him about 50 licks with a limb. They told him he had “been a little too far with the Yankees and caused men to be shot at.” That was four months prior and he was not fully recovered. He had not been a soldier in either army. [The 1870 census lists James Milton, a 27-year old blacksmith, race white, with his family in Lincoln County. He reported \$800 in property.]

Andrew H. Russell

Age 36, a blacksmith and farmer, living in Lincoln County’s 9th civil district. Gov. Brownlow appointed him commissioner of election registration in Lincoln County in 1868; he issued about 800 certificates in Fayetteville on court days in May and July. He was threatened several times at gunpoint chased through the woods at night. In fear, he stopped insisting that men qualify for their certificate and issued one to everyone who asked. When he tried to swear in new county officers as directed by the Governor, some of the former office-holders refused to leave or to turn over their records. In early Oct. he went to Knoxville to meet with Gov. Brownlow and alert him to the state of affairs in Lincoln County. He told the Gov. there would never be any peace until the former Confederates were allowed to vote. The Gov. removed him from office on Oct. 18th. He was staying at Squire Harrison Halls near Clifton one night when the Ku-Klux came and he feared they were looking for him. He had served as a U.S. Army scout during the war and made enemies in the area. He was afraid these men were coming after him in Ku-Klux disguise. Asked whether the events in Lincoln County caused the rising of the Ku-Klux to originate there, he said only that

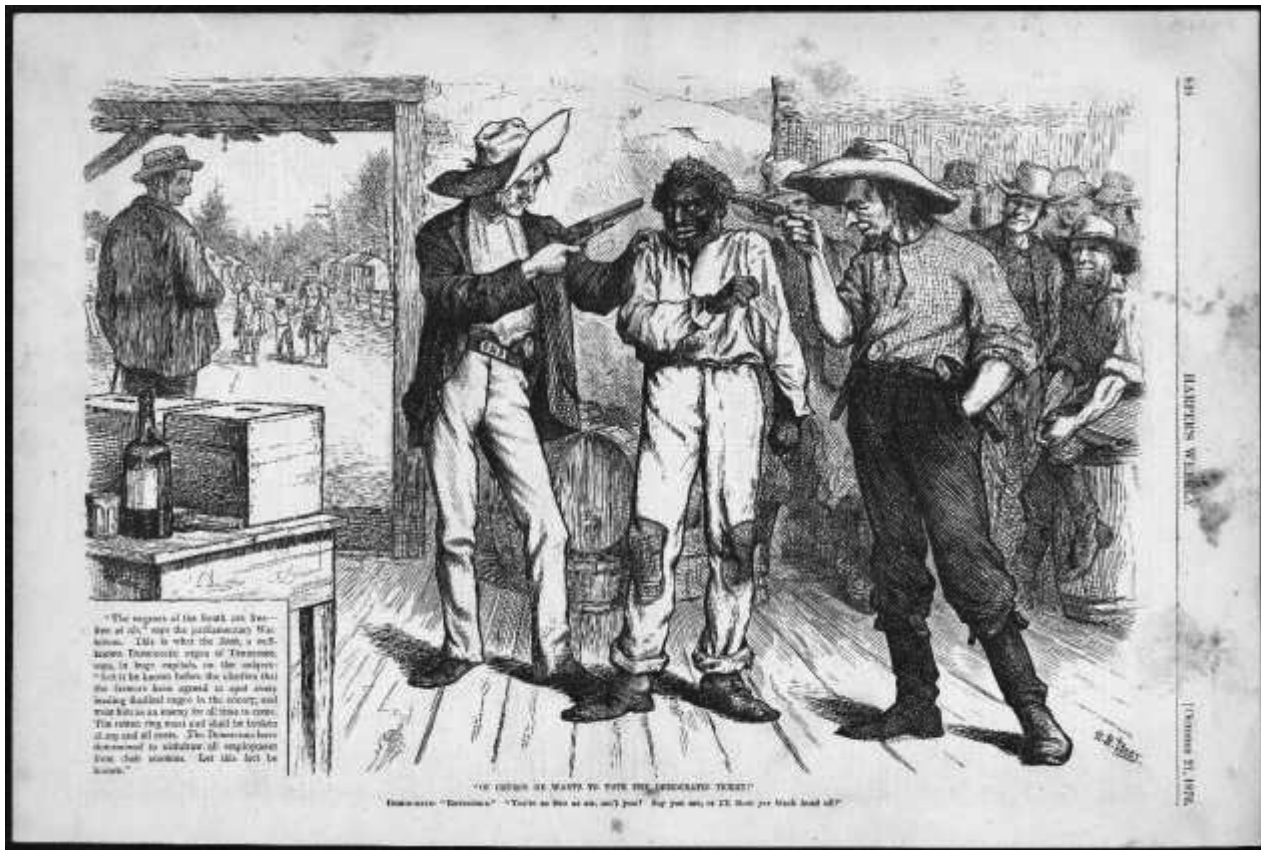
Lincoln County had bred her portion of them. [The 1870 census lists Andrew Russell, a 35-year old farmer, race white, with Mary Russell, age 46, in Lincoln County. He reported \$4,200 in property.]

James H. Carey

Age about 45, a farmer serving as Trustee for the County, residing in district 12. Fifteen or 20 men, some in disguise, came to his father's house looking for Andrew Russell before the May election. They told Carey's brother, John, that Russell would "go up" [hang] if he didn't issue election certificates to all who wanted them. John Carey was at the time a representative in the State Legislature and had formerly been commissioner of voter registration in the county. [The 1870 census lists the household of John Cary, age 49, including J.H. Cary, age 45, in Lincoln County, both white. John Cary reported \$5,100 in property and J.H. Cary reported \$7,500. Both men were born in North Carolina.]

Joseph H. Pigg

Age 28, a farmer living in district 14 of Lincoln County. Just before the November election four Ku-Klux men came to his house in the night and demanded he come out and give them his pistol. When he refused, they said the Grand Cyclops had ordered them to do get his pistol. In July 1868 eight men came when he was not home. They broke down both doors and searched the house for him, claiming they wanted to hang him because he was getting up a militia company. After threatening his wife and a young man who was staying with them, they left. Pigg was at the Carey's that night, sitting up with Henry who was ill. Negroes Ed Jacobs and Beverly Pigg were both whipped by the Ku-Klux for voting after that. Witness was appointed a deputy sheriff in June 1868 but resigned in July. [The 1870 census lists Joseph H. Pigg, a 28-year old farmer, with his family in Lincoln County. He reported \$2,800 in property.]



This Harper's Weekly cartoon depicted the situation of some black men in Middle Tennessee all too accurately.

(Courtesy Tenn. State Library and Archives)

The Murder of Ova Davis, Putnam County, 1887

Part II

by *Mitzi Freeman*

INTRODUCTION

The lives of two families were shattered when a heartbroken, angry young man took the life of a young girl and then attempted to take his own. On 18 June 1887, John W. Green put a pistol to Ova Davis's head and fired as she plead, on her knees, for her life. He then fired three rounds into the back of his own head. Ova died shortly thereafter. Although gravely wounded, John lived another 46 years. After two trials and an Appeal at the Tennessee Supreme Court, John W. Green spent the rest of his life in the East Tennessee Asylum for the Insane. This research is primarily based on the testimonies in the Tennessee Supreme Court Case *State vs John W. Green*.¹



The first installment of this story appeared in the Fall 2019 issue of the *MTGS Journal*, pp. 75-81

At the Davis Household . . .

John lay near the edge of the porch. At first everyone assumed that he had died. Suddenly, he groaned loudly and rolled off the porch, falling face down into the grass. There, he lay until members of his family arrived.

Lon Green, John's younger brother, was the first to arrive at the scene. He asked some of the men there to help carry John to the west side of the house near the chimney and lay him down on the ground in the shade. As Lon examined his head, he saw that the balls had entered his skull behind his ear and exited through the top of his head. His skull was broken in several spots.

Elizabeth Vinson came running into the yard. She began crying when she spotted her wounded son. The Greens attempted to care for his wounds as best as they could. However, there was little they could do for such a devastating head wound. As she cradled her son, Elizabeth secretly hoped that he would pass peacefully into the Great Beyond. For she knew, if he survived, he would surely be hung in the center of town. She remembered what had happened to the murderous Brassell brothers nine years earlier.² She did not think that she could bear to watch her boy die in that manner.

As the sun moved in its westward direction, the shade afforded to them at the chimney dissipated. The heat of the June sun beat down on them. By now more of the Green family had arrived, and they carried John to the spring – the

¹ *State vs John W. Green*. 1887. MS Tennessee Supreme Court Cases. Tennessee State Library & Archives, Nashville, hereinafter referred to as *State vs Green*.

² In 1878, Joe and Teek Brassell were hung in the middle of Cookeville. The brothers had been convicted of murdering Russell M. and John J. Allison in 1875. The murder, the trial and the hanging captured the national attention from 1875-1878.

same spring where he had stalked Ova. There, they could more effectively wash the blood from his head and bathe him with the cool spring water.

THE DAVISES

Albert raced to find Mr. And Mrs. Davis and alert them of the tragedy. After an hour or so, he finally reached them on the road. They immediately turned their carriage around and rapidly headed home.

Arriving before 2:00 in the afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Davis sprang from the carriage and ran into the house. When Mrs. Davis spied her daughter laying on the bed in the hall, she began to scream. She screamed and screamed and screamed until she fainted. Mr. Davis, having witnessed the carnage of the Civil War, immediately realized that there was little hope for his precious daughter. He tended to his prostrate wife by fanning her until she regained consciousness. Together they sat by Ova's bedside as grief overwhelmed them. Within the hour, Ova breathed her last breath and slipped into eternity.³

Mr. Davis asked those around what had happened to John. Someone informed him that his family had taken him to the spring where he had died. A short time later, another person, who had come from the spring, announced that he still lived but was expected to pass at any moment. Mrs. Davis gathered several quilts and sent them to the spring so that John would not be lying on the bare ground.

AT THE SPRING

At the spring, quite a crowd gathered around the Green family as they attended to the gravely injured man. John slipped into and out of consciousness. During one of his more lucid moments, Howard Hutson demanded "What the like of this meant?"⁴

John replied in a low, weak voice, "That's the question! I have told you that Bill Davis would have this done, I had to do what I have done." John inquired who just spoke to him. Hudson identified himself and stated that James Cameron was with him.^{5 6}

John rambled on about how a man could always see after it was too late. Then he mumbled incoherently until he again lost consciousness.

As the sun began to set, John still clung to life. Elizabeth wanted to take him home to die. She walked to the Davis house to talk with Mr. Davis about the current situation. Mr. Davis offered her the use of his wagon to carry John back to the Green home.

By this time, Sheriff Charles Bradford had arrived at the scene. He, as well as everyone else, expected John to die. He agreed to allow the Green family to take John, but he assigned Constables George Parks and Jim Parks (Ova's fiancée) and Deputy Sheriff Chance C. Farley to remain as guards at the Green house. In the unlikely event that John survived, they wanted to ensure that he paid the price for his crime.

As the Davis family was preparing for the burial of their precious daughter, the Green family loaded the gravely injured man into the Jersey wagon and took him home. When they arrived, his brothers carried him to the house and placed him on a bed.

THE LETTER

After the chaos of the afternoon slowly dissipated, York approached his father-in-law and quietly handed him the letter that he had found on the porch.

³ "W. G. Davis Testimony," *State vs Green*.

⁴ "Lon Green Testimony," *State vs Green*.

⁵ "James Cameron and Lon Green Testimony," *State vs Green*.

⁶ James Cameron was Tom Cameron's father.

One side of the letter was covered in blood. The other side was rife with bloody fingerprints. A human hand drawn in ink adorned each end of the letter. Written between the two hands was the inscription:

“Read the enclosed letter and don’t grieve after us; read this as soon as you find it.”

When Davis opened the envelope, he found four pages of handwritten text and a flyleaf from *Pierce’s Memorandum and Account Book* with additional information handwritten on it. The paper was worn as if it had undergone a great deal of handling during the letter’s preparation. It read:



“Davis & Green: This goes to show what love is. You may know that I am interested in you when you read this. I can freely give my life for the one that I love so dearly. We were engaged to marry the first Sunday in August 1886. I saw there would not have been any of this if Ova had not taken somebody else’s advice. I thought everything was all right, or I would not have got where I did. Those things I told were so what we did. It has ruined me forever, and her, too. I told her well of this. So I can’t live in the condition I am in. I have made up my mind to destroy my life and hers too, if I don’t fail. I have tried to forget this, and the more I tried the more I would study about it. You all just saw how bad you could aggravate [sic] me about Ova. So I can’t stand it any longer. I will take her and go beyond you all’s sight.

“Nobody knows anything about love till they get where I have been. I knew when everybody turned against me that my time was up. I had this thing figured out a long time ago. I did aim to kill Jim Parks and “Punk” Cameron [Tom Cameron], but I knew I could not do that all. You all can read this and keep away from the girls. Look what one has caused me to do. You now, by this, may take warning to live and love each other, and quit your way of doing among each other.

“Let every breath be a prayer, and don’t follow after me. I have prayed day and night for a long time and found no relief. I had rather be in hell at once, for this is nothing but hell no how. I am aggravated to death, and it gets worse in the place of better. Every time I think of the way me and Ova did, it nearly kills me and I think of it day and night.

“This is something for you, Mr. Davis, to study about the rest of your days. I am going to hell and I will take Ova with me. So I won’t be there by myself, for Ova is as certain to land in hell as I myself. So we will both be there together. We will try another world of a mode existence, and if you don’t change your way you will follow after us both.

“To Mrs. Davis. Here is you, Mrs. Davis: Let your children choose who they please. Don’t you say a word. Look where one of yours had gone down in the bottomless pit of hell for evermore on the account of your advising because I was a poor boy. Now you can think of this after it is too late to advise.

“Here is you, Albert: If there is any such a thing as haunts, I will haunt you till the thirtieth generation. You thought you were doing great things when you were talking for Cameron. You could not see this till it was too late. I aim to haunt Jim Parks and “Punk” Cameron and Albert Austin till the thirtieth generation. You see if you all don’t hear and see great sights and sounds and racket, for you three have aggravated me and I will aggravate you now. When you got in your wild career, you can think of this.”

To his mother, he wrote:

“Mother, don’t you grieve after me.

*“For I am bound to go
To leave this world of sorrow
And trouble here below*

“I don’t mind dying a bit in the world. I had rather be dead than a living. I ain’t got but one time to die and when I am dead I will be done with suffering here in this world. Oh, me! how beautiful it would have been if we had married when we were promised. You can’t see nothing until it is too late, but I could see this a long time ago, and I told Ova of it time and again and did everything I could to prevent it, and you all did the same the other way. So you can see now when you were doing wrong laughing at me and calling me a fool. Think of this, will you, when I am dead and you no more shall see.

“This is what I want you all to do without dead bodies. I want you all to bury us bother together at Davis grave yard, on the right of the gate as you go in. Will you, Mr. Davis, have this done? Bury us both like I say, and do like a man. It will not do any good for you all to fall out with each other now. You call can’t help this; so you all live and love each other and do this that I have asked you all to do — bury me and Ova together and sing this song when you put us down in the grave:

*“I saw a youth the other day
All in his prime, he looked so gay;
He has trifled all his time away
And dropped into eternity.”*

[signed] *John W. Green.*”

*“My dear mother, and brothers and sisters—
Don’t you all grieve after me,
For I can’t live no longer here,
And don’t you all follow after me
And don’t grieve after me.*

On the left side the following was written:

*“Mr. Davis, don’t grieve after Ova;
I take her with me, where you no more shall see.”*

Located on the bottom, after inverting the page, was the following:

“The Pangs of Jealousy”

“I am at my right mind, but Ova is in my brains, and I had rather die and go to hell than to see her ever marry another man. I want you, Shelah, to come and get my horse, and keep him as long as you or he lives. He is paid for, and I want you, Shelah, to have him, and you be sure and come and get him. My folks don’t want him. They have wished him dead a dozen times.

[signed] *John W. Green*”

On the flyleaf from *Pierce’s Memorandum and Account Book* was written:

“Mamma, you keep my pistol as long as you live.

“Jim, you keep my fiddle as long as you live.

“Don’t grieve after me.”⁷

⁷ "Ova Davis Slayer," *Daily American* (Nashville, Tennessee), 7 June 1889, p. 1, col. 4-5, digital images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/118937010/> : accessed 12 May 2016).

Heartbroken, Mr. Davis folded the letter and put it away for safe keeping. As an attorney, he knew that this letter may one day be used as evidence if John survived his wounds and was brought to trial.

THE GREEN HOUSE

During the first few days, John continued to lapse into and out of consciousness. While conscious, he had lucid moments and moments filled with wild hallucinations. At times, he screamed and thrashed about. He ranted and raved and talked of killing himself. When the pain became more than he could bear, he begged for a knife or pistol to end it all. Other times, he hallucinated that he was being chased by Negroes and snakes. He screamed that he wished that he had waited and killed Parks and Cameron.⁸ All of this was disheartening for his family to witness.



John hallucinated about snakes and demons.

On Sunday night just after the shooting, John rested quietly in his bed. Lon stood nearby holding a lamp whose brightness showered the bed with light. John moaned and asked if it was dark in room. Puzzled, Lon replied that he held a lamp. John sighed and explained that he was blind and could not see the light.

He, then, asked where Ova was. Lon patiently explained that she was now deceased. John rose up and loudly retorted "I told her of this six months ago. I told her well of it!"⁹

When Lon questioned why John killed Ova, he told him about the letter left on the porch and said that it explained everything. He repeated that he wanted to kill Cameron and Parks. He regretted that he had not waited until Sunday, when all three of them would have been at Sunday School. He asserted that Parks and Cameron had been in his way during his courtship of Ova. Then he proceeded to describe in detail how he killed Ova.

On Tuesday night, 21 June, John begged for Reverend William Dinges to visit him. When the Reverend arrived, he gently asked "John, do you know me?"

John: "I can't see."

Dinges: "Did you send for me? What do you want with me?"

John: "I want you to pray for me. Will you sing for me?"

Dinges: "What do you want me to sing?"

John: "The song that I wrote in the letter."¹⁰

When John repeated some of the song, Dinges responded that he did not know that song and could not sing it. John peevishly snapped "Sing whatever song you want!"

After singing to him, Dinges asked how John felt about his current situation. John explained that he thought he was going to die. Dinges continued talking with him about his crime and the consequences of the unpardonable sin. As John responded to his questions, he astounded Dinges with the quality and the intelligence of his answers. John answered Bible questions and relayed promises from the Bible.¹¹

On another night, George Parks and Chance Farley stood guard in the kitchen while Lon and Elizabeth sat by his bedside. John rambled on about a variety of subjects. Then, he talked about how he wanted his possessions distributed

⁸ "George Parks Testimony," *State vs Green*.

⁹ *Ibid*.

¹⁰ "Wm Dinges Testimony," *State vs Green*.

¹¹ *Ibid*.

after his death. After a brief pause, he went on to malign Ova and to relive the details of the murder.

THE COOKEVILLE JAIL

Each passing day, John defied the odds and showed improvement. It soon became apparent that he might survive despite having shot himself three times in the head. The growing concern was that the Green family might attempt to hide him before justice could be served. By June 29, John was well enough to travel. Sheriff Bradford removed him from the Green home and brought him to the jail.¹²

Outside the jail, a large crowd assembled with hopes of seeing the culprit of such a heinous crime. Jim Parks, Ova's fiancée, waited with the crowd. As John reached the jail, he called out for Parks asking if he was in the crowd. Parks responded that he was. John called for him to come over to him. Parks made his way through the crowd and stood before him. John begged for his forgiveness for what he had done, for what he planned to do, and for the gossip he had spread about Parks and Ova.¹³ Unfortunately for history, Parks' response was never recorded.

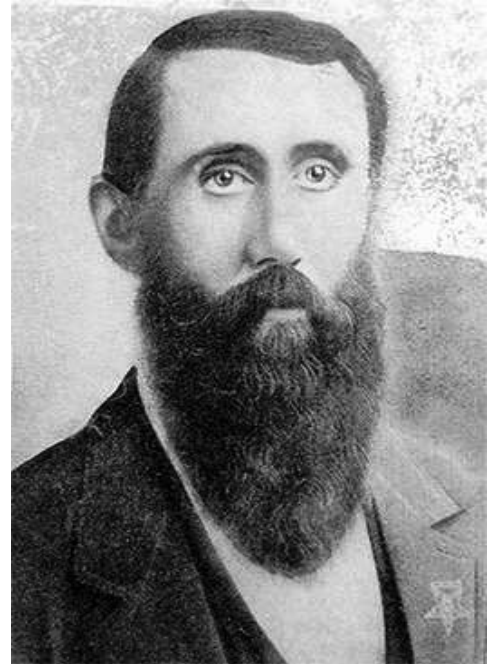
Even though John's condition improved daily, he was still feeble; and the threat of death loomed over him. For the next two weeks, his brother Lon stayed every night at the jail with him.

John suffered from sporadic hallucinations. When he was rational, he recounted – to anyone who would listen – how he had stalked and murdered Ova and how he planned to murder Parks and Cameron. He declared that if he went to trial, he would not deny killing Ova. He cried that he would rather commit suicide than to be hanged. He often begged Jailor Gabbert to get him something with which to kill himself.¹⁴

In his less than rational moments, he babbled about his hallucinations. At times, he ranted about being chased by a Negro. He saw dogs and rabbits running by. Once he claimed that a rabbit had run by and gotten caught under a drift. A Negro and a white man were trying to get the rabbit out. Eventually, the white man was able to get the rabbit out.¹⁵

One of the more fantastic tales that John disclosed was about Ova. He claimed that he and Ova had entered into a Lover's Pact during the time – in his mind – that they were courting. The Lover's Pact entailed a commitment to each other that if one of them "quit" the other, the jilted party had the right to kill the other person. After Ova refused John's company and before he left for Dickson County, he claimed that he ran into Ova on the road. He declared that she sweetly smiled at him and inquired as to why he had not been to visit her. He responded that he would come by her house that afternoon.

When he arrived, he had brought with him a pistol and handkerchief. He tied the handkerchief around his eyes, handed the pistol to Ova and commanded her to shoot him. When she replied that she could not, he removed the handkerchief and tied it around her eyes. He aimed the pistol at her but could not pull the trigger. He claimed that although they both attempted to carry out their agreement, neither had the courage to follow through.¹⁶



Charles B. Bradford, Sheriff

1844-1918

TN Genes:

www.tngenes.net/index.php/military/confederates/

¹² "Was He Insane?," *Daily American* (Nashville, Tennessee), 1 March 1890, p. 2, col. 5, digital images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/118979919/> : accessed 12 May 2016).

¹³ "George Parks Testimony," *State vs Green*.

¹⁴ "J. C. Gabbert Testimony," *State vs Green*.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

Soon, his brothers realized that if he did survive, John would need a lawyer. Elias and Lon first approached Joel C. Gabbert, who was an attorney as well as head jailor. The Green brothers offered Gabbert a horse and a cow in exchange for defending John. However, Gabbert and the Greens could not come to a formal agreement. The Green brothers then approached Captain Walton Smith. He agreed and enlisted the help of the Honorable George H. Morgan, Alvin W. Boyd Esq., and Jabez Watson Esq.

When John was well enough, he was delivered to the county jail. Dr. Jefferson Franklin Dyer, the jail physician, examined his head wounds. He found that one shot had glanced off the side of his head. The remaining three shots entered his head behind the right ear and traveled up towards the top of the skull. The three balls were lodged in the same area of his brain.

After the examination, Dr. Dyer recommended that the bullets be removed from his skull. Everyone agreed. However, when Dr. Dyer performed the operation, he was only able to remove two balls. The third remained lodged in John's head.¹⁷

Captain Smith contacted Dr. Samuel Benjamin Fowler of Jackson County and requested that he assist Dr. Dyer in the removal of the third ball. Smith, Fowler and Dyer arrived at the jail early one Sunday morning.

When John spotted the doctors approaching his jail cell, he grabbed a stick and backed himself into a corner. He threatened to hit Dr. Fowler with the stick if he came any closer. The men attempted to reason with him but to no avail. Gabbert informed him that he would not get any better if the bullet remained in his head and that the doctors were only there to ensure that he would get better. John adamantly refused saying that he did not want his head cut off. He said the only reason they wanted him to get better was so that they could hang him!¹⁸

Walton, Dyer and Fowler continued to reason with him. After several hours of arguments back and forth, John finally agreed to allow them to operate. He laid down on the bed. As Dr. Fowler began to probe the wound, John pulled away from him and attempted to prevent him from examining him any further. With more persuading, he finally laid down and allowed Dr. Fowler to complete the operation.¹⁹

About 1 July 1887, a preliminary trial was held before Esquire Madison F. "Mat" Jones²⁰ John was found guilty of first-degree murder and officially committed to jail without bail.²¹

The Grand Jury Hearing was held 12 September 1887 in the Circuit Court in Cookeville. The prosecutor was Ova's father, William G. Davis. The Attorney General was Algood Moore. Columbus Jackson Davis served as the jury foreman. John W. Green plead not guilty to charges of first-degree murder. The Grand Jury returned a true bill of indictment. John Wesley Green would stand trial for the murder of Ova Davis. Cookeville, Tennessee, would once again appear in headlines around the country, as it had with the Brassell trial.

THE JAIL FIRE

Awaiting trial, John was incarcerated at the Cookeville jail. He shared a cell on the upper floor with William Medley and William Manor. Wade Harpole, who lived at the jail, oversaw the prisoners.

One day (it is unknown exactly when), the upper story of the jail caught fire. The prisoners frantically rattled their cell doors begging to be freed. Harpole, George Whitaker, Dow Terry, Crock Hill and Robert B. Capshaw raced to

¹⁷ "Dr. J. F. Dyer Testimony," *State vs Green*.

¹⁸ "Dr. S. B. Fowler Testimony," *State vs Green*.

¹⁹ There is some discrepancy as to when the third ball was removed from John's head. Some reports claim that it happened shortly after Dr. Dyer operated on him and removed the first two balls. Others report that the ball remained in his head until 19 February 1888.

²⁰ Mat Jones was the person that Mr. and Mrs. Davis were on their way to visit on the day that Ova was killed.

²¹ "A Demon's Deed," *Daily American* (Nashville, Tennessee), 4 July 1887, p. 6, col. 4, digital images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/119288705/> : accessed 12 May 2016).

help them. As Harpole opened the jail door, the smoke billowed out. The freed prisoners raced to the lower floor and ran out the door.

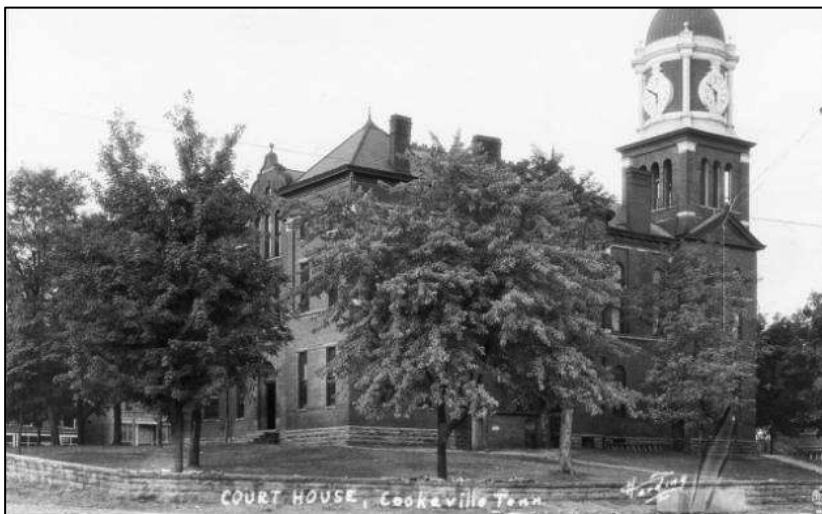
John, however, was not among them. He sat calmly in his cell staring blankly at the wall as the smoke filtered into his cell. He made no effort to get away from the fire. Harpole dispatched Whitaker and Hill to bring him to safety. While Harpole would later testify that Whitaker and Hill carried John down the stairs, Terry and Capshaw would testify that they saw John come down the stairs of his own accord.

THE FIRST TRIAL

The State prosecuted John twice for the murder of Ova Davis. Due to the notoriety of his heinous crime, each trial was plagued with challenges.

The first attempt of the first trial occurred on 27 February 1888. Since John was unable to participate in his own defense due to recent surgery on his head, this trial was continued until the May term of court.

The second attempt of the first trial began Wednesday, 16 May 1888, in the Circuit Court of Putnam County. Relatively few details are known about this trial as the transcripts burned in the Court House fire in 1899. What little is known is given below.



This Putnam County Courthouse was built in 1900

Judge John A. Fite presided over the trial. The prosecuting attorneys were Attorney General Alfred Algood, Honorable Henry C. Snodgrass, William T. Smith Esq. and Leonidas D'Entrecasteaux Smith. The defense attorneys were Captain Walton Smith, Honorable George H. Morgan, Alvin W. Boyd Esq., and Jabez G. Watson, Esq. Deputy Sheriff Ambrose Perry Warren took care of the jury.

Seating a jury proved difficult because many had already formed strong opinions about the murder. By Thursday afternoon the following men were seated on the jury: G. F. Bilbrey, Myatt Ashburn, Henry Wisner, Thomas Alcorn, A. L. Walker, Andrew Gore, John Neal, Eli Neal, Samuel W. Johnson, Newton Pearson, William Shuberg and Jacob C. Hyder.

The jury heard the evidence Thursday through Sunday. By late Sunday afternoon, they retired to the jury room. The next day, they returned with a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. After the usual round of defense motions, the judge set aside the verdict. A new trial was granted, because authorities discovered that one of the jurors had expressed the opinion that John was guilty and should be hung. Sources never revealed which juror held this view.

Throughout this trial, John was unable or unwilling to aid in his defense. He showed no interest in the proceedings about him. As he sat at the defense table, he constantly begged to go home so that he could sleep. When he was called to testify, he refused to answer questions asked or to participate in the trial in any manner.

During this trial, newspapers reported that the prosecution presented John's suicide note as evidence. At the end of the trial, Ova's father took possession of the letter.

To Be Continued

Nashville and The Industrial Removal Office

by Jean Roseman

Jean Roseman is the author of *Shalom Nashville: A Jewish History* (2010) and a long-time member of the Middle Tenn. Genealogical Society.

Little known and long forgotten, the Industrial Removal Office was a noble and altruistic endeavor. Conceived in New York in the early years of the twentieth century, it was an effort to literally “remove” immigrant Jews from overcrowded ghettos to other parts of the country while tapping into heartland communities with an already established Jewish presence. Fellow Jews should then assist immigrants in finding jobs and assimilate them into that Jewish community.

The need was exacerbated by repeated Russian pogroms against Jews from approximately 1880 to 1920. They spurred near mass immigration, mainly to New York City. Already established German Jews there were increasingly pained about this immense influx of Eastern European Jews, especially Rumanian Jews. New immigrants were settling in already overcrowded ghettos where squalor, disease, sweatshops, child labor, and crime prevailed. Anti-immigration and anti-Semitism were movements on the rise.

The engaging musical “Fiddler on the Roof” with the dairyman Tevye trying to hold his family, his livelihood, his culture, and his religion together while symbolically balanced on a spiked roof typifies the backstory of the unskilled Russian immigrant coming to America. The Tevyes of that era generally arrived with considerable family, all with little formal, if any, education, and no marketable skills in an industrializing society. They sought out fellow immigrants and hunkered down in the ghettos of New York and other cities.

German Jews, already respectably settled in New York City more than two generations, knew something had to be done. They could not ignore how negative the dominant ghetto impression about Jews was. They knew it would only continue to stoke the rising xenophobia and anti-Semitism mounting in that era. They sought to ameliorate a worsening situation.

Charitably removing immigrants to interior American communities with Jewish enclaves seemed like a good solution. There they could find opportunity. A scholar of modern Jewish history Gerald Sorin more shrewdly assesses the ulterior motive: “The German Jews in the United States continued to be overbearing in their attempts to Americanize their embarrassing ‘cousins’ by muting their Orthodoxy, their Yiddish, and their socialism.”¹

Whatever their motives, the notion of “removing” those not prospering in overcrowded cities to other, notably rural, supposedly pristine settings prevailed at that time. History has chronicled and novels have recounted the stories of orphan trains transporting children to distant destinies in rural settings. That notion of “removing” people to what was perceived as a better environment in a country with expansive frontiers was a viable social concept of the time.

It was the concept German Jews incorporated in the formation of the Industrial Removal Office.

The Organization of the Industrial Removal Office

The Industrial Removal Office came into being in 1901. It operated like a funnel to what ultimately would amount to over one thousand receiving communities. The NY office, as well as smaller Boston and Philadelphia offices,

¹ Jack Glazier, *Dispersing the Ghetto, The Relocation of Jewish Immigrants Across America*, (East Lansing, Michigan: Michigan State University Press, 2005), p. xiii.

selected and processed myriad immigrants who applied for dispersal.

Regional traveling agents promoted the IRO with local Jewish leaders and established local agents in states across the country and in Canada. At the base, designated resident agents were to receive, settle, and arrange employment for newly arrived immigrants. Agents received a salary for the placements and were to keep New York informed about progress. The success of the overall program fundamentally rested with the local agent.



The New York Industrial Removal office operated like a funnel, sending immigrants to a thousand receiving communities.

The General Manager of the Industrial Removal Office was David Bressler, German by birth, efficient, persuasive, dedicated. Through him Nashville became an involved community as early as 1901.

Nashville at the Turn of the Century

Nashville at the beginning of the twentieth century seemingly offered the kind of receiving community the IRO would have sought. It had a solid commercial and financial base. With an advantageous location on the Cumberland River and as a major component in an extensive rail network, it offered efficient transportation of people and goods.

Nashville also had an established Jewish presence. There is no documentation of the Jewish population in Nashville at that time. What is known is that many Jews, particularly those of German background, had made credible civic, commercial, and professional accomplishments.² Historian Louis M. Kyriskoudes further notes that merchants and financiers served as the city's political and economic leaders.³ Nashville Jews were very much in that leadership mix. They had established department stores; they were regional wholesalers; they were physicians and pharmacists; they were attorneys and professionals; and they served on the City Council and on the Nashville City School Board.

In the first decade of the twentieth century Nashville already had three synagogues: the architecturally unique reform Vine Street Temple which reflected a German membership, the conservative Gay Street Synagogue with its largely Polish membership, and the orthodox Fifth Avenue Synagogue with its mainly Hungarian base. The community had as early as 1902 established and outfitted a Young Men's Hebrew Association that had quickly become the epicenter of Jewish life in Nashville. Women had created the Nashville Section of the National Council of Jewish Women to spur involvement in issues such as preventing blindness in newborns and establishing kindergartens for immigrant children. They had also created the pragmatic Bertha Fensterwald Settlement House to assist immigrants. Congregational groups had established aid funds, relief groups, and sisterhoods to take care of their own.

² Jean Roseman, *Shalom Nashville, A Jewish History* (Nashville: Eveready Press, 2010), *passim*.

³ Louis M. Kyriskoudes, *The Social Origins of the Urban South: Race, Gender and Migration in Nashville and Middle Tennessee, 1890-1930* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), p. 22.

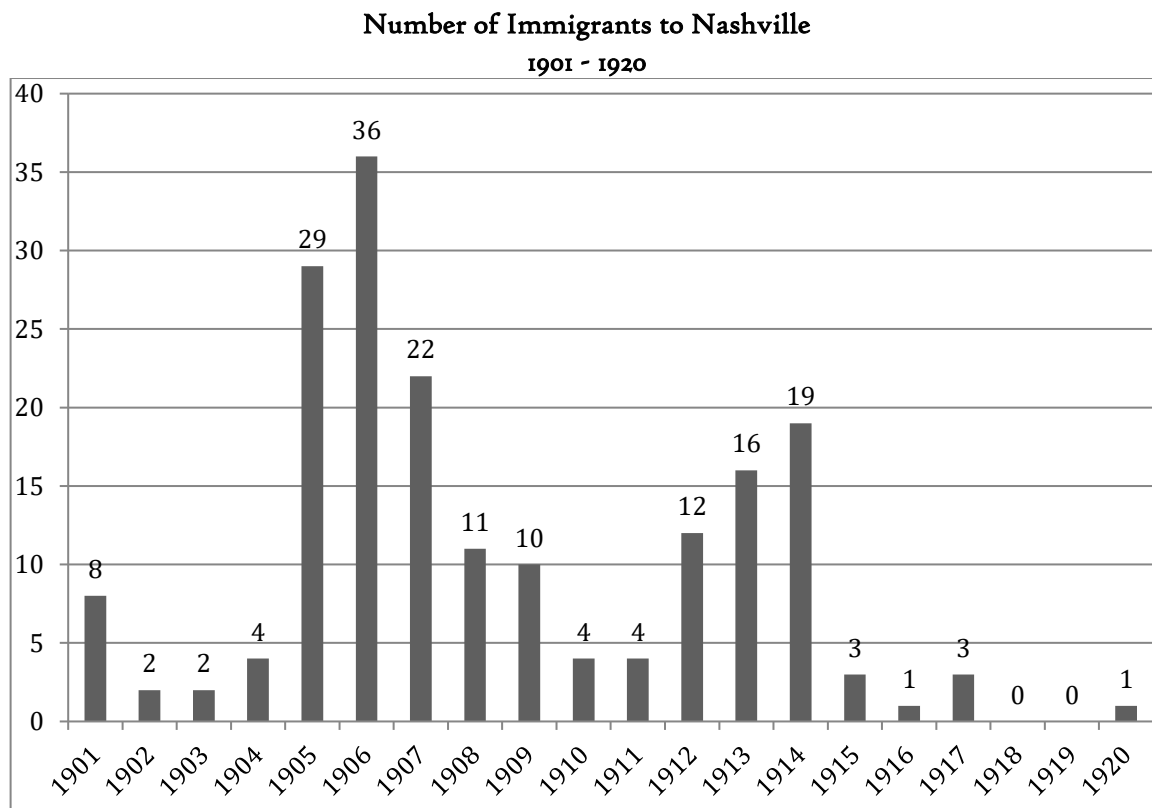
Conveniently there was also the Watkins Night School located in the city center that offered courses in English language and skills. To New York eyes, Nashville with its solid financial and manufacturing base and its in-place Jewish community had to be a beckoning city for immigrant relocation.⁴

Nashville's Involvement with the Industrial Removal Office

From the beginning, the IRO kept surprisingly extensive records. Today those records are available at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011 and a guide to the available records from 1903-1922 is on line.⁵ While the records are sometimes porous and filled with spellings difficult to trace, they are impressively organized and rich in substance.

Records of the Industrial Removal Office show removal numbers for Nashville beginning in 1904. Local archived sources trace removals as early as 1901.⁶

Based on amalgamated sources, the years from 1901 to 1920 roughly show the following dispersal to Nashville as closely as can be tabulated by the author:



The years that mark the most notable removals occurred during two very distressed times in Eastern Europe. The first increase from approximately 1905-1909 occurred during the time of especially cruel pogroms in Russia thus spurring increased emigration. It was also a time of what is known as the Bankers' Panic in New York that sent the U. S. economy into a tailspin.

⁴ Roseman, *passim*.

⁵ "Guide to the Records of the Industrial Removal Office, undated, 1899-1922," (<http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109188>).

⁶ MS 45: Industrial Removal Office, Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

The second increase in Nashville removals happened as the war years were ratcheting up in Europe. Again emigration intensified. Even more hapless immigrants found their way to the swarming ghetto streets of New York City.

Key Figures in Nashville's IRO Participation

In an attempt to disperse the ghettos, travelling agents for the IRO made local contacts and patched together local support committees. It was not easy work. As Jack Glazier notes, the travelling agent's job had several dimensions in addition to first establishing a receiving community: he had to continue to provide "encouragement to restart, sustain, and even increase . . . local work."⁷ It was an arduous task that involved much travel to many different communities, especially to Nashville.

Initial arrangements to ground the program with Nashville were made with some of the leading Jewish citizens of Nashville. They were professionals and among the busiest men of the city thus the most unlikely to be able to find time to administer the program. They included these three key players:



Nathan Cohn
Lawyer



Sam Levy
Wholesale shoe merchant



Isidore Lewinthal
Reform Rabbi

Photos courtesy Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives

Once the contacts were identified, the program endorsed, and the removals began to arrive in Nashville, challenges emerged.

Challenge 1: The Agent

Chief among the challenges was having a Nashville agent in place who could do the groundwork. The agent's work involved a paperwork exchange with the New York office, meeting arrivals at the train station and finding employment and securing housing for them. Initially Sol Lucats of Russian background seemed the ideal agent in place for Nashville. He had been born in Russia and conscripted into the Russian Army. Escaping Russia, he made his way to Nashville and became a policeman. He still had relatives in Russia and knew first-hand the suffering of Russian Jews. Not only could he understand the travails of the removals, but he spoke their language.

In a letter to the New York office, new arrival Barnett Malmud praised agent Sol Lucats:

*[I] would like to inform you that I am getting along perfectly well. I am very happy that I have met such gentlemen as Messrs Levy & Lucats. As soon as I arrived in Nashville, Mr. Levy led me to Mr. Lucats, who troubled himself a great deal and finally secured a position for me where I earn \$14.00 a week.*⁸

⁷ Glazier, pp. 148-149.

⁸ Barnett Malmud to IRO, Jul 3, 1906.

Malmud wrote the above letter in 1906, but evidently Lucats did not stay much longer in the position. Records of the years from 1906 until 1912 do not specifically name an agent in place. Letters show correspondence between Sam Levy, the Rabbis Lewinthal and Saltzman, and occasionally with David Cline, the Secretary of the Hebrew Relief Society in Nashville, giving the impression of some disorganization at the Nashville end. Most obvious is that there was no steady agent in place.

A stream of 1907 letters between Rabbi Lewinthal and David Bressler, the General Manager of the IRO in New York, indicate that there were indeed problems.

One cause for concern arose when recent immigrants precipitated a strike in Nashville because they were not being paid New York wages. Rabbi Lewinthal, who had been almost twenty years in Nashville, understood more keenly the mind of the South. He knew strikes were not endorsed on Southern soil. When he wrote of his concerns to the IRO manager, David Bressler in New York had a totally different view. Bressler responded the strikers were in fact doing a favor for all workers everywhere when they struck to raise wages.⁹ Rabbi Lewinthal fired off a telegram asking the IRO not to send any more men for the time being.¹⁰ In addition to holding a strike, some of the men were not working and putting a heavy strain on Nashville Hebrew Relief Society.



Bressler was not deterred. He plugged away at keeping Nashville in the program.

Rabbi Lewinthal again responded on March 6, 1907 that Nashville “found it impossible to provide for any more families or men at present and New York should discontinue sending anyone.”¹¹

The impasse continued. Rabbi Lewinthal then firmly stated the Hebrew Relief Committee decided not to take any more removals because of the Nashville Jewish community’s financial condition.¹²

Mr. Bressler hammered away at how desperate recent immigrants were to be sent anywhere where they might make a semblance of a living.¹³ Indeed the economy in 1907 was so weak that it led to a widespread collapse of banks by the end of the year.

A more salutary letter followed from the empathetic Sam Levy. He explained that the Nashville program was discontinued “on account of our agent.” The agent remained unnamed. The second most important reason was that charity funds were exhausted and the officers of the Hebrew Relief Society were themselves advancing personal funds to meet needs.¹⁴

New York kept relaying the desperation of the immigrants in their office. Eventually even the stalwart, always supportive Sam Levy asked the IRO not to send anyone as he wrote the “Nashville Committee is very much disorganized.” Levy said he alone simply could not carry the load and Mr. Bressler should involve Rabbi Lewinthal again.¹⁵

⁹ David Bressler to Sam Levy, letter Feb 1, 1907.

¹⁰ Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal to IRO, telegram, received Jan 8, 1907.

¹¹ Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal to IRO, Mar 6, 1907.

¹² Rabbi Lewinthal to David Bressler, letter Mar 8, 1907.

¹³ David Bressler to Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal, letter Mar 11, 1907.

¹⁴ Sam Levy to David Bressler, letter Mar 22, 1907.

¹⁵ Sam Levy to David Bressler, letter Jul 4, 1907.

By August 1907 immigrants were again coming to Nashville. Somehow community leaders, members of the Hebrew Relief Society, and relatives and friends dealt with the influx. Nashville agreed to receive three to four men a week and two families a month. The IRO was to pay a Nashville agent \$40 a month. Another unnamed agent ultimately did not work out. Had a dedicated agent been in place, the program principals Rabbi Lewinthal, Sam Levy, and Nathan Cohn might have been more comfortable with the processing of the immigrants so that none ended up unemployed or on the local charity roles.

Bressler, from the IRO office in New York City, kept encouraging the leaders in Nashville by describing how dire the need was: "...our offices are packed to the doors daily, and not infrequently the crowds extend out on the sidewalk to the corner." Frantic to keep Nashville in the program, he ended his letter with the IRO giving Nashville an allowance of \$5.00 for every person sent and \$15.00 to \$20.00 for every family sent."¹⁶

There is a gap in letters between November 11, 1907, and January 13, 1910, further suggesting the lack of an agent and unfortunately the lack of commitment on Nashville's part. In 1910 another Nashville community leader, Lee Loventhal, wrote a letter to Mr. Bressler which suggests that the removal program may not have taken place for the past two years. As reasons Lee Loventhal referred both to poor local industrial conditions and insufficient funds for local relief.¹⁷

A travelling agent for the IRO attempted to revive sympathy and interest. He spoke at the Young Men's Hebrew Association on February 6th 1910, where he "secured sympathy but no cooperation."¹⁸

David Bressler in New York never let up on Nashville. His letters cut to the very soul of its Jewish leaders: "Is the problem of Jewish immigration that of New York alone, or is it the problem of American Jewry?" He asked Nashville to consider accepting 100 removals a year.¹⁹ Despite Bressler's pleas, records show only four individuals removed to Nashville in 1910 and four in 1911. Those several may have come because of chain migration and having relatives already in Nashville.

At the beginning of 1912, Rabbi Lewinthal was still decrying conditions in Nashville: bad business and severe weather making the task "utterly impossible."²⁰ David Bressler continued the pressure to help.

Finally in 1912 an agent of record came in place. Sydney Mtron Hirsch was appointed. Probably no Nashville figure was less suited to be a receiving agent. Hirsch was a Nashville native who had joined the Navy, voyaged to the Far East, lived in the interior of China, learned Mandarin, studied religion, pursued art, and contemplated philosophy. Hirsch's search for answers to metaphysical questions then led him to Paris where he became a male model, supposedly for Rodin. He continued his modeling in New York. Eventually he came back to Nashville and concentrated on writing and staging outdoor classical mega-plays at the city's famed Parthenon. A liaison with Vanderbilt professors led to the formation of "The Fugitives," a group of poets and linguists who applied metaphysical and linguistic analysis to their poetry and its symbolism.²¹ One Nashvillian remembered his mother describing Sydney Hirsch as a "swami."²² Sydney Hirsch was hardly the type of practical individual needed to help meet the urgent needs of newly-arrived foreigners.

Shortly thereafter Rabbi Lewinthal's brother-in-law Samuel Weil was suggested to take over the position. New York protested his total inexperience, his age, and his lack of understanding of the needs of the people being relocated. He

¹⁶ David Bressler to Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal, letter Jul 23, 1907.

¹⁷ Lee Loventhal to David Bressler, letter Feb 8, 1910.

¹⁸ Stanley Bero to David Bressler, letter Feb 6, 1910.

¹⁹ David Bressler to Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal, letter Feb 11, 1910.

²⁰ Rabbi Isidore Lewinthal to David Bressler, letter Jan 8, 1912.

²¹ MS 34, Jews in the University Community, Box 2, Annette Levy Ratkin Jewish Community Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

²² Roseman, p. 131.

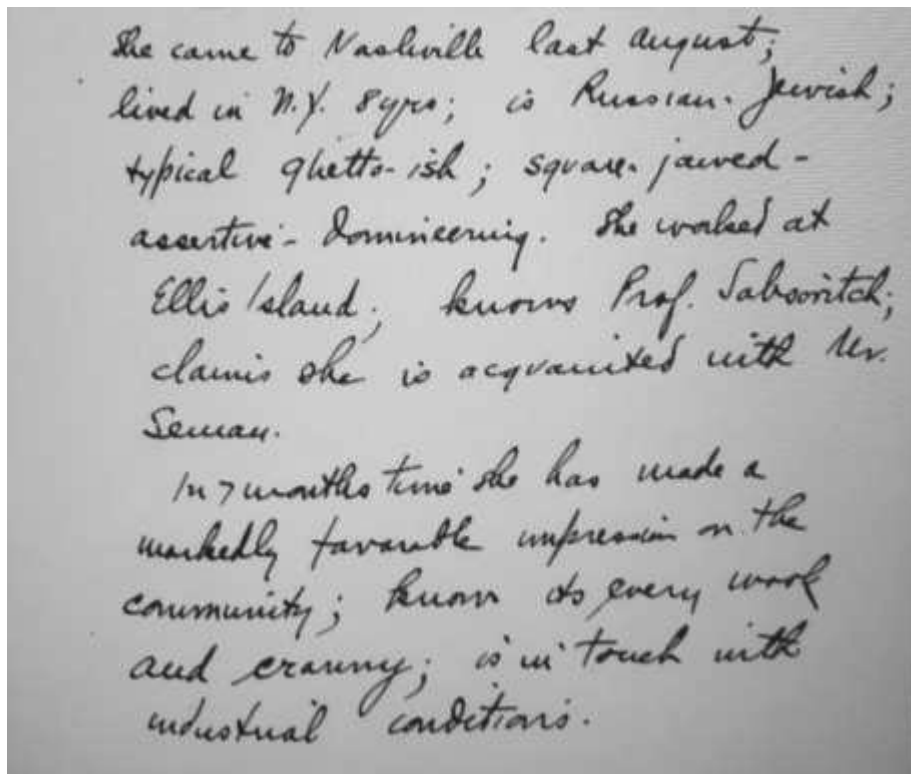
could not converse in either German or Yiddish. Absent any other agent possibility, Weil did hold the position for a short while. New York, for its part, had agreed to send only removals who could understand English so it seemed the situation might work out with Mr. Weil. The IRO office sent him 10 prospective cases to reply for whom he could find employment. He did not reply.

Matters did not move forward. Abraham Solomon, the regional travelling agent for the IRO, came to Nashville to see why. He actually found the untended applications stuffed in Mr. Weil's drawer. Solomon wrote New York:

*Mr. S. L. Weil, is honest, reliable, conscientious, prudent, but he is absolutely inefficient and the last man to entrust work of the kind required.*²³

Although he had done nothing, Weil felt he had been employed and sent the New York office a bill for \$50. A compromise was reached and he received \$25 for his short period of non-productive employment.

The next agent had a very suitable background. She was Miss Esther Finkelstein, head of the Bertha Fensterwald Settlement Home in Nashville. She had a Russian-Jewish background and had lived in New York. Travelling agent Abraham Solomon wrote the following letter to New York about her:²⁴



She came to Nashville last August; lived in N.Y. 8 yrs; is Russian-Jewish; typical ghetto-ish; square-jawed - assertive - domineering. She worked at Ellis Island; knows Prof. Sabowitz; claims she is acquainted with Mr. Seeman.

In 7 months time she has made a markedly favorable impression on the community; know its every nook and cranny; is in touch with industrial conditions.

While praising her knowledge of and work in the Nashville community, the disparaging statements he makes of her being “typical ghetto-ish; square jawed – assertive – domineering” in his letter to New York portend problems. The problems, however, were to come from elsewhere.

Miss Finkelstein officially began her appointment March 1, 1913, with a salary of \$50 a month conditional on placing eight removals a month with two of the eight being families. She took on the task early and with fervor and attention to detail clearly stating what she expected of the IRO. Her handwritten letters to the IRO contain numbered paragraphs

²³ Abraham Solomon to David Bressler, letter Feb 15, 1913.

²⁴ Abraham Solomon to David Bressler, Feb 15, 1913.

with succinct points. Specifically she did not want New York to send her removals for which she did not have actual jobs. In one letter she shows her attention to detail with this request: Will you please supply me with stationery, or shall I buy and charge it to you?"²⁵

Miss Finkelstein was a force to be reckoned with. She canvassed Nashville for jobs, sought out domiciles, prepared economic reports for New York, all the while maintaining her position and duties at the Bertha Fensterwald Home. Miss Finkelstein, however, resigned the position April 3, 1913 after a short two months.

Archived correspondence shows David Cline, Secretary-Treasurer of the Hebrew Relief Society, continued the work of finding employment and receiving removals to Nashville thereafter until he died in 1918.

Challenge 2: Supply and Demand

While Nashville's experience with agents was definitely a crucial factor in its inconsistent involvement in the IRO, the problem of supply and demand was also a decisive factor. The New York office had abundant supply but Nashville did not always have the demand. The New York office wanted Nashville to accept a steady quota of removals, regardless of available jobs. Nashville wanted to only accept those for whom they could provide specific employment.

Miss Finkelstein's short tenure is a case in point. Her initial correspondence stated specific job skills for positions she knew she could fill. Eventually she buckled under New York insistence and agreed to accept eight removals a month, two of which would be families. Permission to send families however, had to be secured beforehand. It was also agreed she would submit a bi-monthly industrial report.²⁶

Challenge 3: Transportation Costs

Transportation costs to Nashville plagued the program. An ad in *The Nashville American* of that time shows that round trip train fare to New York City was \$31.00.²⁷ Assuming that a one way fare might be a little more than half that amount at approximately \$17 in 1909, in today's cost that would be a shocking \$479.28.²⁸ Train fare in 1909 was more expensive than an airplane ticket 110 years later. Children could, however, generally travel for a reduced fare.

In most cases the IRO paid the transportation if the immigrant could not pay or contribute to it. That is why the IRO most often sent single men who should then be employed and enabled to fund their families' transportation to follow them. As the program matured and its funding decreased, almost all participants were asked to contribute some to the cost of transportation.

In some cases, relatives and friends in receiving cities were also asked to contribute. The record shows several Nashville businessmen contacted the IRO directly and asked to have a certain applicants sent to Nashville.

R. Schklar, a dealer in leather goods, sent a letter requesting that should a man by the name of Bammit Sirkin come to the IRO office ". . . do me the favor and send him at once."²⁹ He makes it known he could provide a job but does not address the transportation issue. The IRO wrote back asking for a contribution.³⁰

Mr. Sirkin never made it to Nashville.

²⁵ Esther Finkelstein to Philip Seman, letter Feb 26, 1913.

²⁶ Nathan Cohn to IRO, Feb 18, 1913.

²⁷ Ad, *The Nashville American*, Sep 19, 1909. ProQuest Historical Newspapers: *The Nashville Tennessean*, p. 34.

²⁸ "CPI Inflation Calculator,"

<http://www.in2013dollars.com/us/inflation/1909?amount=17>

²⁹ R. Schklar to IRO, letter dated Jul 5, 1906.

³⁰ IRO to Mr. R. Schklar, letter dated Aug 3, 1906.

A month later R. Schklar asked for another man named Joe Bernstein to be sent. Joe Bernstein was a shoemaker. R. Schklar was a leather dealer. When Schklar was again asked for a transportation contribution, he was indignant and replied he was not asking for Mr. Bernstein for his leather business as he was not a shoemaker. He simply said he had been in New York, met Joe Bernstein, and was simply trying to help him get to Nashville where he would make sure he got a shoemaker position.³¹

Schklar was even more annoyed that his original letter occasioned a telegram to Mr. Sam Levy asking who Schklar was. Levy then asked Schklar for 40 cents to cover the cost of the telegram.

Correspondence from the IRO office dated August 9, 1906, from General Manger Bressler disavows the IRO office of any responsibility for the 40 cents. It also informs Mr. Schklar that \$5.00 had been sent by Mr. Levy to help with the transportation of Mr. Bernstein. It ends by showing that the IRO was aware of the following: [Mr. Levy] informs me that Mr. Bernstein is a brother-in-law of your sister-in-law, Mrs. Bernstein.”

³² There was indeed a connection.

Well-meant letters of support from the Nashville community came to the Removal Office seeking transportation for cousins to come to Nashville. Harry Goldfarb, a dealer in new and second-hand shoes, wrote he wanted his cousin to come to Nashville. He states. “. . . I am not able to send him a ticket, and he has no funds of his own.”³³ Goldfarb promised to help him once the cousin got to Nashville. That was a consistent theme through much of the program with Nashville. Well-meaning people offered employment or help but were not ready to pay for expensive transportation. That burden fell to the stressed IRO which had increasingly limited funds.

One case involved a man who was asked to repay \$12 of the cost of his transport. He said [I] “could not steal, beg, or borrow” the money and after “much privation enduring cold and hunger and sleeplessness, I beat my way on freight trains . . . and arrived in Nashville a week ago to my relations.” He then wrote to the IRO to please assist him in getting his belongings sent to him from where he had left them in New York.³⁴

The IRO simply was not the golden goose many thought it was. A 50% cut in the IRO operating budget for 1914 had forced it to conserve limited resources even as many applicants arrived without any personal assets or relatives in receiving communities. In a letter to Nathan Cohn, Manager Bressler bemoaned there were no funds available and



This full-page article in the *Tennessean* of Nov. 17, 1907 attempted to correct misconceptions about immigrants. While religion was not mentioned, the author attempted to address irrational prejudice. “The southern Italians, without question, unusually illiterate and addicted to the settlement of differences by stiletto. So, too, are the mountaineers of Tennessee.”

³¹ R. Schklar to IRO, letter Aug 1, 1906.

³² General Manager to R. Schklar, letter Aug 9, 1906.

³³ Harry Goldfarb to IRO, letter Sep 28, 1906.

³⁴ Max Glasel to IRO, letter May 22, 1907.

they would have to “depend very largely on the whole-hearted cooperation of our committees and friends in the interior.”³⁵

A look at the placements through the years of its existence indicates an abundance of communities nearer the East Coast rather than further west.³⁶



In the summer of 1914 the de facto Nashville agent Dave Cline wrote a letter to the IRO that a man they had already placed in Nashville would not pay for his family to follow him. Cline reported:³⁷

He said he was not able. It looks like to me that the word has gone down the line with this class of People, that if they say they have not got the money you will send them. I told him you will not send them unless he paid some.

No one wanted to pay the transportation costs.

Challenge 4: The Human Element

Archived letters reveal that the people referred to as “removals” were in the end individuals, each one unique. Some came to Nashville, became employed, prospered, and blended into the community.

Some came and used Nashville as a springboard to go other places. Meyer Goldstein with no trade arrived January of 1906 and worked at low paying jobs until June 10th when he left for St. Louis. Agent Sol Lucats also had to report to New York that two removals had jobs with shoe merchant Sam Cohn; the men actually reported to work early their first day, then departed for Texas later that same day.³⁸

Some missed Yiddish culture, friends, and food and went back to New York.

³⁵ David Bressler to Nathan Cohn, Oct 15, 1914.

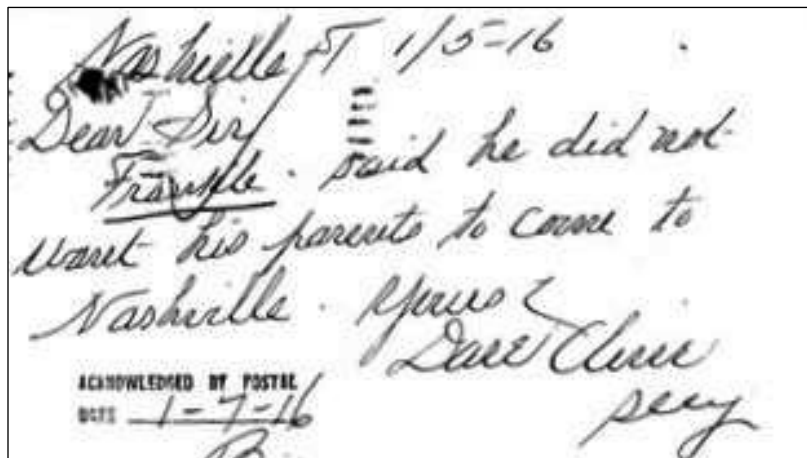
³⁶ Ram Abramitzky, Leah Boustan and Dylan Conner, “Moving to Opportunity in the Early Twentieth Century.” (<https://paa.confex.com/paa/mediafile/ExtendedAbstract/Paper7814>)

³⁷ Dave Cline to IRO, letter Jul 8, 1914.

³⁸ Sol Lucats to IRO, letter Mar 12, 1906.

Some worked hard to keep their families together, while others saw their move to America as a chance to cast off relatives and start fresh. Some did not want wives or even children in New York or Russia to follow them to Nashville. Rabbi Saltzman in Nashville interceded in one such case. He wrote the IRO that the removed individual promised to bring him \$45 to send to his wife in Russia. When he “approached and reproached” the man for failing to do so, the man “came out with a clear statement that he would send her rather a letter of divorce.” He then disappeared from the city.³⁹

One Mr Frankle did not want his parents to come to Nashville.⁴⁰



Some gamed the system.

There was Solomon M., allegedly a butcher by trade, who came to Nashville and realized the person in charge of the program and of him was a woman, Miss Esther Finkelstein. He worked one day and was dismissed for being “lazy and sleepy.” He demanded Miss Finkelstein pay his board and arrange for his rail fare to St. Louis. Not only did she refuse, she told the boarding house the IRO would not pay any more for him. He was on his own.⁴¹

Abraham A., a baker, filled a position Miss Finkelstein had found for him but he was lazy and careless. He called for a strike and beat up an older employee who refused to join. He ended up in the workhouse. He boasted he did not have to work, that he had a woman in New York who ran a “house” and kept him. He was thinking of bringing her to Nashville but Nashville was “not a good place.” He even claimed he engaged in white slave traffic.⁴²

Ironically both of the above stayed in Nashville.

Others stayed, worked, thrived, and lived out the intent of the program.

One can only speculate how Tevye the winsome milkman, would have fared.

Success of the Nashville IRO Program

Judging the success of the Nashville Jewish community’s involvement in the Industrial Removal program is difficult. There are several reasons.

Nashville never had a consistent agent in place.

³⁹ Rabbi Herman Saltzman to IRO, July 16, 1914.

⁴⁰ Dave Cline to IRO, Jan 5 1916.

⁴¹ Esther Finkelstein to David Bressler, letter Apr 1, 1913.

⁴² *Ibid.*

Some removals did not stay for sundry reasons.

Some changed their names, making research difficult. Schepsel Sapuznick, a shoemaker who arrived in 1905, changed his name to Sam Shapero. Shemin Nevachowitch, Yuddel Zaroisly, and Yanke Zusman also arriving in 1905 as shoemakers may well have changed their names and disappeared into the community with more Americanized names.

Some were more successful than others. Simon Ghertner was one of the most successful of transplants. Arriving in 1901 at the age of 14, he brought skill as a printer which he had learned as an apprentice in Romania. He worked hard, learned the language, and by 1907 was in partnership with another printer building the rapidly expanding printing firm of Cullom and Ghertner. Descendants of Ghertner still in Nashville are now engaged in providing extensive professional real estate management services to condominium and apartment complexes.

Ben Doochin was also a success story. Arriving in 1906, he peddled for a while then ran a feed store in North Nashville. His four sons all became prominent businessmen and leaders in the community.

Numerous tradesmen established shops and were successful and even provided positions for other immigrants. One woman remembered her father making a hard-won living in his shoe shop; she never knew, until this author shared it with her, that her father was on the removal list and had come to Nashville with the assistance of the IRO.

In fact, no one now seems to have even heard of the IRO except scholars who study the two-decade phenomenon as a unique social experiment. As the historian Robert A. Rockaway opines "...the movement never captured the imagination of the Jewish people as a solution to their problems."⁴³

As introduced above, the Industrial Removal Office remains today "little known and long forgotten."



Tennessean, Nov. 19, 1916, p.B5

⁴³ Robert Rockaway, *Words of the Uprooted, Jewish Immigrants in Early 20th Century America*, (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1998), p. 29.

Middle Tennessee Businesses, 1868

From King's Nashville City Directory (part 3)

King's Nashville City Directory, published in 1868, has a misleading title. It is not a directory of people who lived in Nashville, and it is not focused solely on Nashville. The subtitle makes its purpose clearer: *King's Nashville City Directory, embracing . . . a business directory of Nashville, and all the principal towns and stations, in Tennessee, on the different railroads centering at Nashville . . .*

The volume is arranged in four sections, one for each of the railroad lines heading out of Nashville. Each stop along the railroad is described in order, as the traveling passenger would arrive at them. Some are merely depots with no businesses listed, while others are thriving towns offering a wide variety of trades and professions. These lists of businesses and their proprietors offer a glimpse into what "going to town" meant for our ancestors who lived in the Middle Tennessee countryside.

Towns on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad (cont.)

MURFEESBORO (cont.)

Dry Goods

Bacharach, Isaac, e s Church
Baer & Co., n s PubSq
Barton & Henderson, e s PubSq
Carney, John L. s e c PubSq
Clark, R.L. n e c PubSq
Doughty, W.M., w s PubSq
Eagleton, Wm. C. & Co, n s PubSq
Hanline & Schiff, s e c PubSq
Hirsch, Henry, e s PubSq
Jordan & Moore, e s PubSq
Lane & McGaughey, s s PubSq
Lansberger, A. s s PubSq
Landsberger, Levy & Co, s s PubSq
Maney & Ransom, n s PubSq
Miles & McKinley, e s PubSq
Neilson, J.D., n s PubSq
Rosenfeld, E. e s PubSq
Sherbrooke, F., w s PubSq
Washington & Smith, n s PubSq

Foundry

Mackenzie, J.T. & Co., w s Railroad

Furniture Dealer

Hall, N.A., w s PubSq

General Stores

Jetton & Clayton, e s Church
Smith, M.D., n s PubSq

NEW FIRM.
—
J. S. McFADDEN. J. W. McFADDEN.
J. S. McFADDEN & BRO
DEALERS IN
SUGAR, COFFEE, FLOUR,
Meal, Bacon, Lard, Salt, &c.,
AND
COMMISSION & FORWARDING MERCHANTS,
East Side Public Square,
MURFREESBORO.
—
They receive daily new and fresh additions to their
STOCK OF GROCERIES, &c.
—
Goods Sold
FOR CASH ONLY!

Grocers

Brown, J.M. n w c PubSq
Brown, D.S., s s PubSq
Butler, J.S., w s PubSq
Collier, N.C. & Co. w s PubSq
Crockett, Jordan & Co., w s PubSq
Haynes, I.J.C., e s PubSq
House, J.R. & Co., e s Church
Jetton & Clayton, e s Church
Jordan & Moore, e s Crockett,
Kerr, H.H. & Co., w s PubSq
Leiper, Sam C. & Bro., nr Railroad depot
Maney & Ransom, n s PubSq
McFadden, J.S., e s PubSq
Mitchell & Wilkinson, w s PubSq
Ott & Mosby, w s PubSq
Ransom & Graham, s s Main
Reeves & Ivie, s e c PubSq
Sherbrooke, F., w s PubSq
Smith, M.D., n s PubSq
Thomas & Fly, s s PubSq
Tibaldi, D.C., w s PubSq

Gunsmith

Dickinson, W.C., w s PubSq

Hardware

Haynes, I.J.C., e s PubSq
Reed, W.A. & Co., No. 7 PubSq
Reeves & Ivie, s e c PubSq

Hotels

Bolles, R.S., Railroad Depot
Spence House, s s PubSq

House and Sign Painter

Rather, John, s s Main

Insurance Agents

Jordan & Rorison, n s PubSq
Reed, R.D., n s PubSq

Job Printer

McLaughlin, H.C., e s PubSq

Livery Stables

Barkley & Todd, n s Main
Ewing & Allen, s s Vine
St. Clair, B., w s Spring

Machinists

Mackenzie, J.T. & Co., w s Railroad

Magistrates

Clark, John N.

S. C. LEIPER. W. F. LEIPER.

SAM. C. LEIPER & BROTHER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DEALERS IN
STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES,
NEAR THE RAILROAD DEPOT,
MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE.

Have just received and offer for sale a very large stock of Groceries, at Nashville prices

Produce of all kinds taken in exchange for Groceries.
We will pay special attention to orders sent us to fill.

RAGS! RAGS!! RAGS!!!

5,000 POUNDS COTTON RAGS WANTED FOR WHICH THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICE WILL
be paid.
oct 20 07 1y

SAM. C. LEIPER & BRO.

P A I N T I N G .
W. L. HORN,
(late of Nashville.)
House, Sign and Ornamenta
PAINTER,
And Imitator of all kinds of
Wood and Marble.
Corner Lebanon Pike and Lytle St.

Having permanently located in Murfreesboro-most respectfully tenders his services in his line of business, and solicits a share of public patronage.
None but the best material used and the best workmen employed.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. aug 1

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.
Violins and Banjos.
Flutinus & Flutes
ACCORDEONS.
Violins and Banjos.
Flutinus & Flutes
ACCORDEONS.
Violins and Banjos.
Flutinus & Flutes
ACCORDEONS.

AT R. D. REED'S
Violin Bows,
Strings, Brid-
ges,
& Guitars
Strings, &c.

AT R. D. REED'S

Currin, R.S.
Hicks, W.D.

Merchant Tailor

Duffer, P.G., n w c PubSq

Milliners

January, Mrs. & Frost, c College and Church
McFadden, Mrs., & Son, n s Main
Wygant, Miss Mary, e s Church

Newspapers

Monitor, e s PubSq
Freedom's Watchman

Photograph Gallery

Bown J.M., n w c PubSq

Physicians

Clayton, H.H., n s Main
Cone, N.D., e s Railroad nr PubSq
Cook, W.C., e s PubSq
Murfree, J.B., n s Main
Ransom, M., w s Railroad nr PubSq
Robison, W.D., c Railroad and College
Wendel, James, e s Church

Planing Mill

Spence, D.H.C., Sup't., w s Church

Produce Dealers

Brown D.S., s s PubSq
Collier N.C. & Co., w s PubSq
Crockett, Jordan & Co., w s PubSq
Jordan & Moore, e s PubSq
Kerr, H.H. & Co., w s PubSq
Leiper & Menefee, nr Railroad depot
McFadden, J.S., e s PubSq
Mitchell & Wilkinson, w s PubSq
Ransom & Graham, s s Mai
Reeves & Ivie, s e c PubSq

Queensware

Reed, W.A. & Co., No. 7 PubSq
Sherbrooke, F., w s PubSq

Real Estate Agents

Jordan & Rorison, n s PubSq

Restaurant

Raps, W.A., e s Church

Saddles, etc.

Boehns, J.A. & Co., s s PubSq
Mosby & Co., w s PubSq

PAYNE'S PATENT CHURNS
With O'Neill's Improved Gearing.
Just the thing for Butter Makers.

CALL and see for yourselves at O'Neill's Shop opposite the Utility Works.
O'Neill & Stout have the *EXCLUSIVE* right to manufacture and sell these Churns in *Wilson, Rutherford and Bedford Counties*. All orders wholesale or retail promptly filled.
Address **O'NEILL & STOUT,**
may2 tf Murfreesboro, Tenn.

D. H. CLAYTON J. B. MURFREE
DRS. CLAYTON & MURFREE
HAVE formed a partnership in the practice of
Medicine and Surgery.
And offer their services to the citizens of Murfreesboro and vicinity.
OFFICE ON MAIN STREET.
-jan10-17

RESTAURANT & SALOON.
W. A. RAPS,
HAS always on hand at his Restaurant, the choicest delicacies of the season. Being supplied daily with the freshest and best qualities of
OYSTERS,

BUILDING!
THE undersigned takes this method to inform the citizens of Murfreesboro that he has **RESUMED** the Carpenters business with
Greater Facilities;
And is **BETTER PREPARED** than ever to do all kinds of
Carpenter's Work,
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE BUILDINGS,
BRIDGES,
SASH,
DOORS,
BLENDERS,
STAIRS,
HANDRAILS,
MOULDINGS,
CORNICE,
BRACKETS,
In fact everything connected with building.
He is also prepared to manufacture all kinds of Machines, constructed altogether or in part of wood, and hopes by strict attention to business, a superior style of work and *reasonable prices*, to merit and receive a liberal share of patronage.
Shop Opposite the Utility Works.
sept 5 tf **PATRICK O'NEILL.**

Saddle Tree Manufactory
Wallace & Co., e s Walnut

Saloons

Bown, J.M., n w c PubSq
Burgdorf, L.H., n s PubSq
Meconnekin, W.H., s s PubSq
Parrish, W.J., c Church and Vine
Raps, W.A., e s Church

Schools

Female Academy w s Railroad

Sewing Machines

Sehorn, A.O.H.P., s s PubSq

Shoemaker

Brown, M., w s Railroad

Stone's River Utility Works

Spence, D.H.C., Sup't., w s Church

Stoves and Tinware

Kelley, Daniel, e s Railroad nr PubSq
Mosley & Cawthon, w s Church nr PubSq

Tailors

Peiffer, N., e s Church
Queener, W.H., w s Church nr PubSq

U.S. Assessor

Ferrell, J.R., e s Railroad nr PubSq

Wagon Manufacturers

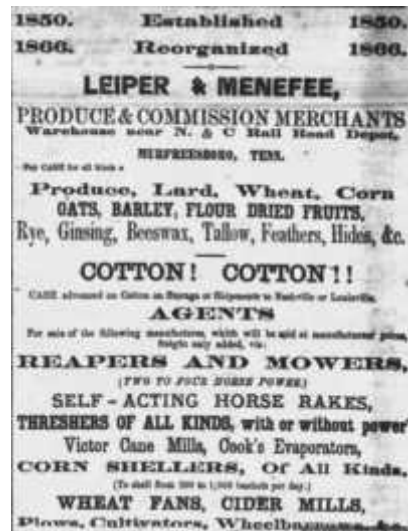
Brown, Cole, c Walnut Main
Smith, Henry, w s Church

Wall Paper

Hall, N.A., w s PubSq

Watches and Jewelry

Sehorn, A.O.H.P., s s PubSq
Stangfield, John A., s s PubSq



Advertisements pictured in this section are taken from the *Murfreesboro Monitor*, Feb. 20, 1868

FOSTERVILLE

Druggists

Naylor, J.W. & H.C.

Dry Goods

Edwards & McElroy
Elam, J.A.
Mayhew, C.C.
Naylor, J.W. & H.C.

Groceries

Naylor, J.W. & H.C.

Hardware and Cutlery

Edwards & McElroy
Elam, J.A.
Naylor, J.W. & H.C.

Postmaster

McElroy, J.S.

Dr. E.S. Milton of Fosterville was introduced as a new member at the Tennessee Medical Society's 35 annual meeting.

Republican Banner 8 Apr. 1868, p.4

BELLBUCKLE

Dry Goods

Blair, R.B. & Co.
Fugitt, A.D.
Thomas, J. & Co.

Hardware

Blair, R.B. & Co.
Fugitt, A.D.
Thomas, J. & Co.

Grocers

Cooper & Lamb
Moore & Blanton

Postmaster

Lamb, G.W.

Canned Fruit

We notice that one of our grocers received, yesterday, a large quantity of canned peaches, put up by Mrs. C.N. Hoover, Bellbuckle, Tenn. Good for home production

Nashville Union and American,
Apr. 3, 1869

Homicide in Blair's Store at Bellbuckle

Of the recent homicide at Bellbuckle the Shelbyville *Republican* of yesterday gives the following details: James Hoover and a man by the name of McEwen met at Bellbuckle last Saturday. After a few drinks of mean whiskey they got into a quarrel about the pitiful sum of fifty cents, due from McEwen to Hoover. Hoover showing fight, and McEwen being a small man and not disposed to encounter him, left the place . . .

A short time afterwards McEwen was seen to enter the store of Mr. Blair with whom he had business in the back room. He had not been in the house long until Hoover came upon him and commenced pummeling him with whatever he could get his hands upon. During the scuffle McEwen stabbed his assailant with a pen-knife near the region of the heart, causing almost instant death. McEwen left at once and has not been heard of since.

Nashville Union and Dispatch, Sept. 14, 1867

WARTRACE

Blacksmiths

Erwin & Henry
Shuler & Gentry

Carpenters

Crews, Edward
Garrett, A.G.
Greer, John

Drugs, etc.

Murray, John

Dry Goods

Arnold & Chambers
Fields & Manier
Hart, Thomas
Jones & Simon
McKinney, N.M.
Murphy, Robert

Hotels

Chockley, Jesse
Mathis, W.J.
Sherbrooks, C.

Groceries

Arnold & Chambers
Fields & Manier
Hart, Thomas
Jones & Simon
McKinney, N.M.
Murphy, Robert

Physicians

Griswold, M.T.
Sims, W.H.

Post Master

Haley, S.R.

Saloons

Mathis, W.J.
Wood, S.T.

Shoemakers

Breedlove, Willis
Chilton, John
Cotnar, John
Flax, George
Shearn, Patrick

A Man Killed and Another Injured at Wartrace.

J. A. Jarratt and James Tuck got into a difficulty in a drinking saloon at Wartrace a few days ago, which resulted in the death of the latter. It seems that Tuck had a small account against a man by the name of Jarratt, and presented it to J. A. Jarratt, insisting that he was the man indebted to him. Some angry words ensued, and both parties drew their pistols, but their friends interfered and quieted the disturbance for the time being. Tuck went away, but soon after returned with a knife and a club in his hands, and struck Jarratt a severe blow over the head with the latter. Jarratt turned on his assailant, wrenched the club from his hand, and dealt him in return three or four heavy blows about the head and face, which caused the death of Tuck. The wound of Jarratt is also said to be serious.

Nashville Republican Banner
Dec. 6, 1868

Nashville

THE REPUBLICAN.

VOL. 1.

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1866.

NO. 10.

Advertisements for businesses reproduced here are from the Oct. 19, 1866 issue of the *Shelbyville Republican*.

Agricultural Implements

Cowan, W.G. & O.
Moorman, M.B. & Bro.
Shoffner & Bell

Attorneys

Bearden, Walter S.
Coldwell & Warder
Colyar, Marks & Dean
Cooper & Friersons
Davidson & Buchanan
Houston, C.P., Jr.
Ivie, T.B.
Martin, C.T.
Moore, J.A.
Myers, Thomas R.
Neil, Jas. H.
Scudder, Jas. L.
Shapard & Moody
Steele, Thomas S.
Thompson, Joe H.
Wisener & Son
Whiteside, T.C.

Bank

Shelbyville Savings Bank

Barber

Smith, James

Blacksmiths

Cooper, Mass
Hobbs, James
Kees, Wm.
Morton, Jim
Powell, Wm.
Stamps, Frank
Thompson & Cannon

Books, Stationery, etc.

Cunningham, S.A. & Co.

Boots and Shoes

Brown, J.F.

Cowan, J.W. & Co.
Franklin, H.
Ivie, J.R.
Wallace, R.N.
Wilhoite & Bros.

Cabinet Shop

Cleveland, H.P.

Carriage Maker

Powell, Wm.

Cedar Ware Manufactory

Thompson, Jacob

Clothing

Cohn, G.
Frankle, H.
Rothschild, S.
Strausman, A.

Commission Merchants

Barrett & Wilhoite
Berry & Whitesides
Eakin, Abb. & Co.
Jett & Frierson
Moorman, M.B. & Bro.

Confectionery

Hodgkins & Trollinger

Cooper Shop

Anderson, W.S.

Cotton Factory

Whiteside & Co.

Drugs, Medicines, etc.

Evans & Shapard
Broan & Coble
White, R.C.

Dry Goods

Brown, J.F.
Buchanan, T.W. & Co.

Cohn, G.
Cowan, J.W. & Co.
Cowan, W.G. & Co.
Eakin Brothers
Elliott & Co.
Frankle, H.
Houston, C.P., Jr.
Rothschild, S.
Shapard, R.P.
Straussman, A.
Wilhoite & Bros.

Express Agent

Moorman, Cy.

Flour Mills

Cannon & Miller
Christie, J.H.
Dwiggins, R.S.
Gosling & Holt
Mullins, James

Furniture Manufactory

Ward & Son

Furniture

Watson Brothers

Gent's Furnishing Goods

Carney & Neely

Government Officials

Galbraith, William, Mayor
Dunnaway, J.N., Sheriff
Tillman, Lewis, Chancery Court Clerk
Phillips, J.M., Circuit Court Clerk
Stallings, Jas., City Marshall
Martin, C.T. City Recorder
Couch, Reuben, County Court Clerk
Tune, William T., Tax Collector
Tune, William T., U.S. Revenue Assessor

Government Officials

Ramsey, Joseph, U.S. Revenue Collector
Farrar, J.H., County Trustee
Brame, William B.M., Postmaster
Galbraith, William, Magistrate
Marshall, Moses, Magistrate
Martin, James C., Magistrate

Groceries

Barrett & Wilhoite
Berry & Whiteside
David, Jacob W., Sr.
Dunnaway & Russ
Eakin, Abb. & Co.
Elliott & Co.
Forbes & Jones
Little & Frierson
Marshall, Moses
Moorman, M.B. & Bro.
Peacock, U.E.
Reeves, S.
Shapard, R.P.
Thompson & Newsom
Troop, Henry
Warren, C.A.
Watson Brothers

Gunsmith

Neil, John

Hardware, Cutlery, etc.

Cowan, W.G. & O.
Eakin Brothers

Hats, Caps, etc.

Buchanan, T.W. & Co.
Wallace, R.N.
Wilhoite & Bros.

Hotels

Barksdale House
Evans House

Insurance Agents

Brockway, A.W.
Roan, T.J.
Stamps, A.L.
Steele, Thomas S.
White, R.C.

Insurance Companies

Aetna of Hartford
Phoenix of Hartford

Enterprise Insurance Company
Phoenix of New York

Mutual Life Insurance Co. of N.Y.
Southern Fire Insurance Co.

Burglaries in Shelbyville
Shelbville has had a visit from the burglars. A few nights ago the store of Henry Frankle was entered through a breach made in the wall, and two peddlers sleeping in the store had their pocketbooks relieved of about \$100. The residence of J.W. Ward was also entered, and some clothing and money stolen.
Nashville Union and American, Apr 23, 1870

FRANK HODGKINS,
CONFECTIONER & BAKER,
SHELBYVILLE, :: TENNESSEE.

I would respectfully announce to the patrons of this house, that I have purchased the interest of Mr Shire in the establishment, and would be pleased to receive a continuance of that patronage so liberally extended to the old firm. Orders filled on short notice. On hand,

Candies, Cakes, Rusks,
Light Rolls and Loaf Bread.

T. J. ROANE, N. B. COBLE.
ROANE & COBLE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DRUGGISTS,
Shelbyville, Tennessee,

Have Always on Hand a Large and Complete Stock of
DRUGS, MEDICINES, CHEMICALS,
PAINTS, OILS, VARNISH, WINDOW GLASS, PERFUMERY,
Toilet articles of all kinds—Soaps—Brushes, &c. &c., at the lowest figures.

TANNER'S OIL,
Kept Constantly on Hand.
Physician's Prescriptions,
Carefully compounded at day or night.
Wines, Brandies and Whiskies
Of the purest article, always on hand, for Medical purposes.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, OF ALL KINDS.

U. E. PEACOCK,
Retail Grocer
AND
PRODUCE DEALER,
North East Corner Public Square.

LIVERY STABLE
AND
WAGGON YARD!
[STUART & GWINN'S OLD STAND,]
Bridge Street, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

MANKIN & CRICK
KEEP Horses and Buggies to hire, at reasonable rates. Give us a call, as we intend to give entire satisfaction to the travelling public.
Single feed for horse, 50 cents—Hitched to hay, 25 cents, without hay, 10 cents. Sept 21

L. R. COY. G. W. SCOTT.
COY & SCOTT,
SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE.
SOLICIT a share of public patronage. Shop on South Martin Street.
Doors, Sash and Blinds,
furnished to order at Nashville prices.

Iron Dealers

Barrett & Wilhoite

Job Printers

Laird & Russel
Russ, James
Russ, R.C.

Livery Stables

Crick & Mankin
Muse, J.C.

Marble Yard

Calhoun, James

Meat Store

Norvell, C.
Turner, Henry

Millinery and Dressmaking

Austin, Miss M.E.
Dolby, H.N.
Woodburry & Stowell

Merchant Tailors

Carney & Neely
Cohn, G.
Morton, S.S.

Newspapers

American Union
Republican
The Rescue

Oysters and Game

Hanson & Co.

Painters

Walker & Corbridge
Wallbrook, M. & J.

Photographers

Judd, Charles

Physicians

Blakemore, G.F.
Evans, R.F.
Lipscomb, Thomas
Thompson, Samuel

Produce Dealers

Barrett & Wilhoite
Berry & Whiteside
David, Jacob W. Sr.
Eakin, Abb & Co

Home Made Furniture.

THE UNDERSIGNED WOULD RESPECTFULLY INFORM HIS FRIENDS and the public, that he has on hand, and will make to order, all kinds of

Household Furniture!

which he proposes to sell **EXTREMELY LOW FOR CASH.**
If you want Bedsteads, Bureaus, Lounges, Safes, Wardrobes, Tables, Mattresses, Chairs, &c., at Nashville prices, please call at my establishment, on Depot Street, next door to the Shelbyville Bank, and you can be suited in furniture and prices. A share of patronage is solicited.

Repairing and Varnishing

DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

All kinds of produce taken in exchange for work.
Shelbyville, March 24, 1866--17.

J. WARD.

H. FRANKLE & CO.

—o—
The Greatest

Inducement Ever

Offered to the Citizens of Shelbyville, and Surrounding Country.

We keep in store a splendid assortment of

LADIES AND GENTS

Wearing Apparel;

—Also—

Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes.

Purchasers may be assured that they will find at our house all kinds of Goods, at prices to suit them, determined as we are, to sell any article we have at unprecedented low prices. We solicit a call, particularly from the Ladies, believing that we can sell them good bargains.

Our house is located on Depot Street, 2nd. door from the corner, "Cannon's Block."

SHELBYVILLE—TENN.
H. FRANKLE & Co.

HARD TIMES

AND

Cheap Goods!

G. P. BASKETTE,

West side Public Square, next door to the old Branch Bank building.

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends and the Public, that he has in store a desirable lot of Goods which he will dispose of very cheap for cash; consisting in part of the following articles:

R. B. MOORMAN CY. MOORMAN

MOORMAN & BRO.,

(Successors to M. B. Moorman,)

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

GROCERS,

PRODUCE AND COMMISSION

MERCHANTS,

And Dealers in
Robertson and Lincoln County Whiskies,
At the Old Stand,

Near the Depot,

SHELBYVILLE, TENN.

DO YOU WANT

A BARGAIN!

If so, Call on

W. W. GUNTER,

PICK STREET,
New North West Corner, Public Square.

HAVING added to my stock of Family Groceries a complete assortment of

STAPLE AND FANCY

Dry Goods:

SHOES, BOOTS, HATS, &c.

I would be glad to see my old friends and customers, as I am able to give

BARGAINS

in all I have to sell. Call and see my goods, as I change nothing for the night.

"Quick sales and short profits," is my motto.

SHELBYVILLE—TENN. W. W. GUNTER.

Produce Dealers (cont.)

Elliott & Co.
Jett & Frierson
Little & Frierson
Moorman, M.B. & Bro.
Peacock, U.E.
Warren, C.A.

Railroad Agent

Bell, T.A.

Saddles, Harness, etc.

Card, H.C.
Christopher, D.J.
Trescott, H.L.
Yancey, J.T.

Saddletree Manufactory

Martin, J.H. & Co.

Saloons

Dwiggins, R.S.
Forbes & Jones
Germania Hall
Jones, Thomas H.
Parsons, John
Reeves, S.
Thompson & Newsom
Troop, Henry
Warren, C.A.
Watson Brothers

Shoemakers

Ivie, J.R.
Murphy, S.J.

Stoves, Tinware, etc.

Fletcher, W.J.

Tin Shop

Martin, J.H. & Co.

Undertaker

Knott, Brown

Wagon Makers

Bishop, C.C.
Green, Isaac

Wall Paper

Cunningham, S.A. & Co.

Watches, Jewelry & etc.

Ruth, J.W.
Sehorn, J.M.

AT THE YELLOW WINDOWS,

EAST SIDE PUBLIC SQUARE, SHELBYVILLE, TENNESSEE;

YOU CAN FIND IN STORE A GOOD STOCK OF STAPLE

Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes and Hats;

Hard Ware, Tin Ware, Cooking Stoves, Castings, Nails

GROCERIES, &c.

My intention is to buy and keep every article of Merchandise in demand, with a determination to sell at the very LOWEST MARKET PRICE. Call, see and be convinced, that I am in earnest and will do what I say. Knowing "Greenbacks" are very scarce, I will give full value for every one I can get.

feb27-ly
R. P. SHAPARD.

H. I. Trescott D. J. Christopher

TRESCOTT & CHRISTOPHER,

Saddle and Harness

MANUFACTURERS,

Opposite Odd Fellow's Hall, Martin Street,
SHELBYVILLE, TENN.

 Would respectfully announce to their friends and the Public, that they have in store a large and fine stock of materials, and will keep constantly on hand every article in their line of business, embracing—

Ladies and Gentlemen's Saddles, Waggon

AND BUGGY HARNESS,

Hames, Collars, Saddle Bags, Whips and whip Staffs, Bridle Bits of all kinds, Saddle Trees, Bridles, Halters, Trace and halter Chains, Metal and wood Stirrups.

Buggy Mounting.

In a word, we keep on hand, or will make to order, all articles in our line of business.

SADDLER'S GOODS

will be furnished at Nashville prices, freight added.

G. PHILLIPS,

East side Public Square, Shelbyville, Tennessee.

HAVING just replenished his stock of

DRY GOODS,

GROCERIES,

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS, &c.,

Respectfully state that he will be pleased to accommodate all who favor him by their calls. By strict attention to business, he hopes to merit a portion of the public patronage; and hereby return thanks to his old customers

Dec. 1st 1865—4t

Family Groceries.

THE undersigned would respectfully call the attention of families in Shelbyville, particularly those living North of the Public Square, to their stock of Groceries and Confectionaries. These articles were purchased for the cash, and will be sold extremely low for the same. Our stock consists in part of

FLOUR,
MEAL,
BACON,
LARD,
SUGAR,
COFFEE,
FISH,
EGGS,
BUTTER,

CHICKENS,
SALT, &c., &c.

CONFECTIONARIES,

CIGARS AND TOBACCO.

We will exchange Groceries for country produce, and will give the usual market price for the same. Give us a call at our establishment opposite the "Town Spring."

June 22-4t
STEWART & OVERCAST.

DRINKING SALOON.

W. T. LEWELLEN,

Next door to Schenck's Silver-smith Shop, East side Public Square.

KEEPS constantly on hand a variety of choice liquors, which, to customers at the bar, he will serve up in good style. Call and see.

TOMBS, MONUMENTS,

And all kinds of

BUILDING WORK.

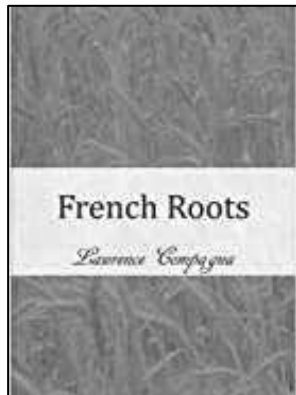
W. B. SPENCER & CO.

Have opened up in rear of Boone & Cable's Drug Store, on the East side of the Public Square, where they are prepared to furnish

Book Reviews *by Shirley Wilson*



French Roots by Lawrence Compagna, hard cover, 2019, 27 pp., illustrations.

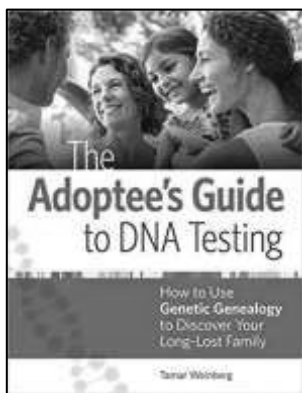


Apparently, if you have French ancestors they migrated to the free world either very recently or quite a long time ago. France is solidly Roman Catholic, but it took a long period of wars in the 1500s and 1600s to establish that. The surviving protestants (known as French Huguenots) formed a Huguenot stronghold near La Rochelle. By 1628 France was solidly, Roman Catholic, with no alternative choice.

The early Huguenots who escaped left before 1628 and settled in three main areas. Most went to New France, which is now known as Quebec. Some went to Arcadia now part of the maritime provinces of Canada. Others settled in Louisiana in the Mississippi River Valley.

Informally written, the author provides an easily read background for those interested in French research.

The Adoptee's Guide to DNA Testing by Tamar Weinberg, paperback, 2018, 239 pp., illustrations, index, photos.



“How to Use Genetic Genealogy to Discover Your Long-Lost Family” is the subtitle for this publication. It covers the basic steps in how to begin and follows through with the various types of DNA tests available and the companies that offer them. Advanced tools include establishing a biological connection, analyzing your DNA test results and applying them to your research.

Included are a number of inspiring case studies of how researchers used DNA to solve family mysteries. Lots of maps, graphs, diagrams and photos enhance the book and depict the many processes that are outlined in the text.

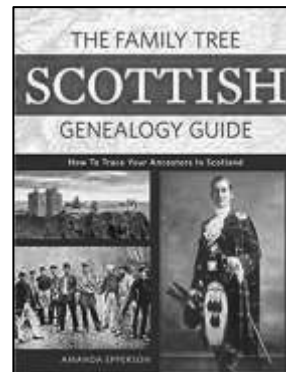
Family historians have benefitted greatly with scientific advances in DNA; adoptees in particular have a much greater chance of finding their family thanks to this new tool.

The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide by Amanda Epperson, paperback, 208, 238 pp., illustration, photos.

Researching your Scottish ancestry is linked to the history and geography of the country, perhaps a bit more than in other countries.

1855 is an important date to remember in that no mandatory vital records were maintained prior to that year. While church records predate civil records and can be very helpful, they can also be somewhat sporadic.

Epperson includes a listing of archives, societies and libraries with contact information along with books, family and geographical societies and websites. A chapter on “What to Do When You Get Stuck” is especially helpful.



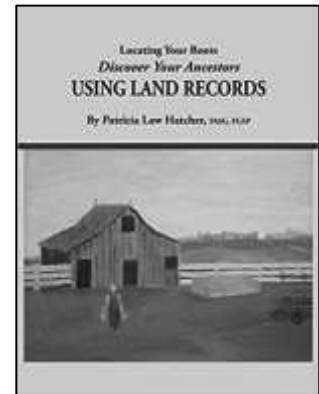
Locating Your Roots Discover Your Ancestors Using Land records by Patricia Law Hatcher, paperback, 2016, 322 pp. illustrations, index, maps.

There is so very much to learn about land records and using them can be so very helpful to your research. This book explains how and will be immensely helpful in assisting you to work through the ins and outs of how to get the most out of them.

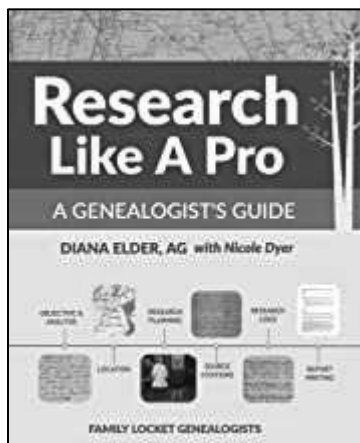
Just finding your way through the maze of various types of indexes currently in use to find the deed you want one can be daunting.

Even the language is a bit different and thus a glossary is included to help you interpret the words and phrases found in deeds.

The metes and bounds system of land measurement is explained. The public land survey system, using townships and ranges, which is entirely different, is also explained. Illustrations and examples help the researcher learn the skills needed for successful research in these records.



Research Like a Pro by Diana Elder with Nicole Dyer, paperback, 2018, 241 pp., illustrations, index.



This book was written for those researchers ready to take their research to the next level, but beginners can learn from it as well.

The authors research is focused on the mid south and southeast areas of the country, where research is more difficult than in some other areas of the U.S.

Topics such as Research Sources, Research Planning, Source citations, Research Logs and Report Writing are discussed, among others. Work samples comprise almost half of the book and involve some unusual sources. The authors demonstrate in detail how various research techniques, such as timeline analysis, can lead to a successful project.

These books are all available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Most can also be purchased on-line for your personal reading pleasure.

Have Your Book Reviewed

Books may be sent directly to Mrs. Shirley Wilson, Book Review Editor, 106 Leeward Point, Hendersonville, TN 37075. All materials become property of the review editor to be distributed to a local library or archive.

