

**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*

We regret the cancellation of our March meeting due to the virus and quarantine.

The officers are working to reschedule upcoming programs depending on the quarantine schedule.

Watch your email for notifications.

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

Virginia Watson at ginnyology@comcast.net

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Contributors in this issue

Jim Long
Mitzi Freeman

From the Editor. . .

One silver lining of the current health crisis is that some genealogists finally have time to concentrate on their research projects. If you've been looking for time to start writing that family history, or your reminiscences (or an article for this Journal!) this may be a good time to get started.

If you don't have a project going, this is a great time to participate in some of the crowd-sourcing projects online. You can contribute to indexing and transcribing documents that will benefit other researchers. For examples, visit *fromthepage.com* and select Find A Project.

In the meantime, I hope you'll enjoy this issue of the *Journal*. You can read the next installment of the Ova Davis story, focused on the trial of her murderer and the many witnesses called. Our series on the 1868 election provides testimony from Franklin County this time. These and other articles may contain something about one of your ancestors – and if not they will at least help you better understand the lives and times of those who came before us.

Stay safe and healthy.

Chuck Sherrill
M.T.G.S Journal Editor

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“I have often wished I knew something of my family” – Diary of Eliza Tannehill Gleaves (1862)

Diary of Mrs. Henry Albert Gleaves (Eliza Jane Tannehill, 1823-1884) daughter of Wilkins and Eliza Dewees Tannehill. Her great-granddaughter Miss Helen Anderson is the owner. first 20 pages or so are filled with verse, some of it written by Eliza and some copied by her. The account takes Eliza through a long period of grieving for her daughter Mary Eliza Gleaves who died at age 16 in 1862. Included is this account of her family history.

The diary is among the Papers of Catherine Berry Pilcher Avery at the Tenn. State Library & Archives (Manuscript Accession Number 71-109).

“I have often wished that I knew something of my father and mother's family. My desire has been so great that I have collected a few items and will write them down for my own perusal. I will begin with what I know of my father's grandparents. They came to this country from England though my great- great grandfather's wife was a Scotswoman. They settled in Carlisle Pennsylvania and finally moved to Pittsburgh where he amassed a large fortune in trading with the Indians. This was handed down to his family which was large and they all possessed the faculty of making money. My grandfather Wilkins by his first marriage had 11 children, my father's mother being the eldest daughter.

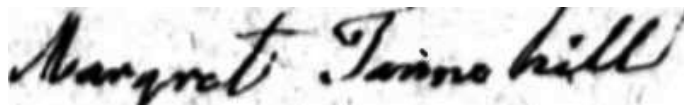
“He displeased his whole family very much by marrying (the second time) his housekeeper who, by the bye, seems to have been a very worthy woman. His family would not speak to her or have anything to do with her. This conduct seems to have distressed the old man very much and to have made him very unhappy. But finally his eldest son John Wilkins, who appears to have had great influence with the family, seeing his father so unhappy waited upon all the brothers and sisters and told that this state of things must not continue any longer but that on a certain evening they were all to meet at home and receive Mrs. W. as a mother. He did not meet with much resistance except for Aunt Hollingsworth who was an exceedingly proud and haughty woman, but she at last consented and on the appointed evening they met and spent a very happy evening without apologies or explanations. This much of my great grandfather Wilkins.

“My father's mother Miss Margaret Wilkins was married to Mr. Josiah Tannehill, a gentleman of considerable literary acquirements and possessed of a handsome property. He served in the Revolutionary [war] with some distinction. He was several times promoted in rank and served until the end of the war. He whilst in the army contracted habits in common with almost all at the time which almost ruined him, but he notwithstanding the reverses educated all of his eldest children handsomely. The eldest of them was my father of whom he was very proud as he promised to distinguish himself. He gave him the best collegiate course that the then new College of Pittsburgh afforded. He wished him to be a lawyer. He [Grandfather Tannehill] lived in Pittsburgh until father had completed the course. Then with the remnant of his fortune he removed to Lexington, Kentucky, where he built himself a handsome residence a few miles from Lexington. But the very first night they slept under its roof it took fire and was entirely consumed with everything they had in the world except what they had on. He had one of the finest libraries at that time that there was, but all was lost. [Grandpa?] then gave up to drinking although he attempted teaching a school for which, as far as learning goes. he was admirably adapted. But after[ward] he died leaving his family penniless.

Baton Rouge, in the State of Louisiana, in the month of March 1811, the precise day she has not the present means of ascertaining. . . . For proof of the marriage she refers to the accompanying affidavits of William Wilkins and others, and to the following extract from the family record, which is in the hand writing of her late husband, which record has been in her possession since the decease of her said husband. [Unfortunately this record is not in the pension file.]

Josiah Tannehill was born June 7 1753 and was married to his Wife Margaret the 27th day of April 1786. She further declares, that from the death of her said husband, she has remained unmarried.

[signed] Margret Tannehill




Catharine Huffnagle of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, stated that she witnessed the marriage of Margaret Wilkins, daughter of John Wilkins, Esq., which was officiated by her late husband, Michael Huffnagle, who was then a Justice of the Peace.

Margaret Murphy, also of Pittsburgh, testified that when she first arrived in Pittsburgh she lived with Capt. Josiah Tannehill and his wife Margaret for two years. At that time they had two children, Wilkins and Catherine.

William Wilkins, Esq. of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, stated that he was the brother of Margaret Tannehill, and that she lived with her husband for many years at Pittsburgh, where they had several children, and then moved to Kentucky.



On 2 March 1846 Wilkins Tannehill of Nashville applied for an increase in the pension of his mother, Margaret Tannehill, on account of the additional service of Josiah Tannehill as a Paymaster and Clothier. He stated that his mother died at Louisville KY on 21 Dec 1839 leaving the following children besides himself: Catharine Stout, Rachel Wheatley, Zachariah Hollingsworth Tannehill, and Jane Wilkins Tannehill. The file contains a document authorizing Wilkins Tannehill to act as administrator of the estate of Margaret Tannehill, signed by her other surviving children as follows: Z. H. Tannehill, S. V. D. Stout, Catherine Stout, and J W Tannehill.



Son & Administrator of Margaret
Tannehill

In another section of the diary, the following list of Eliza's own family is provided.

Mr. H.A. Gleaves and E.J. Tannehill married by Dr. Edgar of the Presbyterian Church on Thursday, Oct. 9, 1845.

Mary Eliza Gleaves born August 6, 1846

Emma Gleaves born July 31, 1848

Fanny Hunt Gleaves born October 1, 1850

Corinna Gleaves born May 22, 1853

Anna Gleaves born June 14, 1855

Albert Gleaves born 1 Jan. 1858

**Eliza Gleaves and
Nashville's Premier
Bookstore**

Excerpted from "William T. Berry and His Fabulous Bookstore," *Tenn. Historical Quarterly* (vol. 37, no. 1, Spring 1978).

Wilkins Tannehill had one son and five daughters. His daughter Mary Margaret married William T. Berry in 1833. The Bookstore was officially established . . . soon thereafter. . . . [We assume] that it was located on the Public Square. It was located there as early as 1853, and there it remained with only minor changes in the street numbers assigned to it until after the War Between the States. . . .

Without any doubt, Wilkins Tannehill had an interest both financial and otherwise in the firm. One daughter of Tannehill (Anne) married William B. Bayless, and another daughter (Eliza Jane) married Albert Gleaves. Both Bayless and Gleaves shortly after its opening became partners in the Bookstore, and for time the firm was known as Berry, Bayless and Gleaves. Wilkins Tannehill, Jr. was also in the store for a while.

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SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in 11 District in the County of DeKalb State of Tennessee enumerated by me, on the 10 day of July 1860. Geo. W. Johnson Ass't Marshal

Post Office Nashville

No. of Inhabitants	Name	Sex	Color	Age	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, and all males over 15 years of age	Value of Estate		Place of Birth, County in State, Territory, or Country	Whether blind, deaf, dumb, idiot, insane, pauper, or convict
						Real Estate	Personal Estate		
51	Berry, George	M	W	36	Book Merchant	20,000	10,000	Nashville	
52	Berry	F	W	16					
53	Berry	F	W	14					
54	Berry	F	W	12					
55	Berry	F	W	10					
56	Berry	F	W	8					
57	Berry	F	W	6					
58	Berry	F	W	4					
59	Berry	F	W	2					
60	Berry	M	W	30					
61	Berry	M	W	28					
62	Berry	M	W	26					
63	Berry	M	W	24					
64	Berry	M	W	22					
65	Berry	M	W	20					
66	Berry	M	W	18					
67	Berry	M	W	16					
68	Berry	M	W	14					
69	Berry	M	W	12					
70	Berry	M	W	10					
71	Berry	M	W	8					
72	Berry	M	W	6					
73	Berry	M	W	4					
74	Berry	M	W	2					
75	Berry	M	W	30					
76	Berry	M	W	28					
77	Berry	M	W	26					
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82	Berry	M	W	16					
83	Berry	M	W	14					
84	Berry	M	W	12					
85	Berry	M	W	10					
86	Berry	M	W	8					
87	Berry	M	W	6					
88	Berry	M	W	4					
89	Berry	M	W	2					
90	Berry	M	W	30					
91	Berry	M	W	28					
92	Berry	M	W	26					
93	Berry	M	W	24					
94	Berry	M	W	22					
95	Berry	M	W	20					
96	Berry	M	W	18					
97	Berry	M	W	16					
98	Berry	M	W	14					
99	Berry	M	W	12					
100	Berry	M	W	10					
101	Berry	M	W	8					
102	Berry	M	W	6					
103	Berry	M	W	4					
104	Berry	M	W	2					

The value under 10. The colored under 2. The foreign born. The blind. The value under 2. The deaf and dumb. The insane. 57200/15070-9. The pauper. The convict.

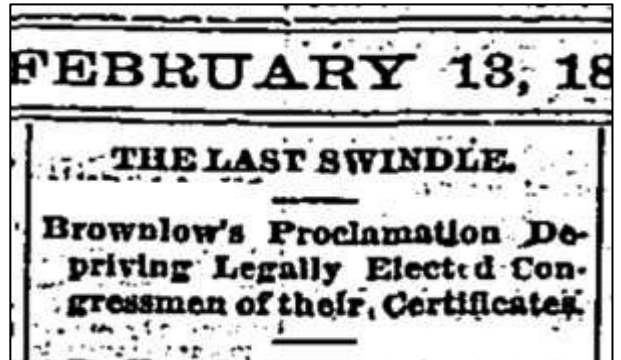
This page from the 1860 census of Nashville shows Albert and Eliza Gleaves and their family at the bottom. Above them are the families of her sisters, Mary Berry and Anne Bayless. All three husbands are shown as Book Merchants with very valuable real and personal estate.

Congressional Investigation of the 1868 Election

Part 3: Testimony From Franklin 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 the 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 Winchester, Tenn., May 11 - 14, 1869, at the office of William J. Slatter, Mayor.

C.A. Sheafe))
 vs.)) In the House of Representatives of the United States
 Lewis Tillman))

The depositions of John F. Anderson, William Prince, H. Zerbe, Albert Ringle, William Gilliam, John Welder, D.S. Long, John Miller, James Sergeant, Nath. Frizzell, M. Crabtree, John Chelwood ad A.R. Daud, witnesses for the contestant in the above cause, taken . . . on the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th days of May, 1869, at the office of the

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).

undersigned, mayor of the town of Winchester, in said town and county of Franklin . . . in the presence of the contestant and the contestee, and Matt Martin, agent and attorney of said contestee.

John F. Anderson

Age 61, resident of the 12th district in Franklin County. The attorney addressed him as “Colonel Anderson.” He was the election officer in his district. This was the first election he had held since the war. Afterward he went to Decherd and turned over the election returns to John Enochs, Clerk of the County Court . There were 20 votes for Tillman and 45 for Sheafe. Three of the election workers had been in the Federal army, the two clerks and one of the judges. There were very few colored voters in the precinct, but nearly all of them came to vote. In 1861 Anderson voted for secession; he believed it was wrong but a man would have had to leave home had he voted against it. He had never seen any Ku Klux men in disguise. [John F. Anderson age 62 is listed with a large family in Franklin County’s 12th District in the 1870 census. He was a farmer with major holdings valued at \$6,000 in personal property and \$40,000 in real estate.]

About John F. Anderson

“Mr. Anderson has built a house of worship himself, to which he invites all Christian denominations. He also employs a minister, and he often says, ‘If the minister don’t preach to suit me, I’ll turn him off and hire another.’ . . . He has the name of being ‘the most liberal man in Tennessee.’ ”

The History of Franklin County (Goodspeed: 1886).

William Prince

Age 63, resident of the 12th district in Franklin County, farmer. He served as a judge at the polling place in his district. Esq. Ake swore in the judges. [William Prince age 62 is listed with Isabella (age 57) in Franklin County’s 12th District in the 1870 census. He was a farmer with \$4,200 in property.]

H.I. Zerbe

Age 32, resident of the 2nd district in Franklin County, farmer. He was in Winchester on election day and voting was conducted in a proper manner. He asked State Representative Jacob W. Brown for about 50 certificates to hand out to white voters. Brown reluctantly gave him five or six. Brown filled in the names on the certificates and gave them to Zerbe. Brown had about 150 more certificates on his desk, which he said were already filled out by colored voters. Zerbe moved from Stark County, Ohio to Tenn. in 1867. Zerbe has heard a good deal of talk about the Ku Klux but has never seen any. The election was conducted properly and quietly, but while Zerbe was gone from Decherd a man named Young was shot there. He did not know the man, but saw the body. He knows that another man, Raleigh Datson, was taken from the courthouse jail and hanged by men in disguise. He believes about 390 democrat votes were cast in Winchester and about only two republican votes on that day. [Hiram Zerbey age 34 is listed with Catherine and three children in Franklin County’s 2nd District in the 1870 census. All the family, except the youngest child, were born in Ohio. He was a farmer and reported \$1,800 in property.]

Albert Ringle

Age 24, resident of district 1 near Winchester, farmer. He was a clerk at the polling place. Ringle was appointed by A. Tinsley and sworn in by Nathan Frizzell Jasper Henderson took in the votes. Ringle is of Northern birth, having come to Tennessee in November, 1867. He saw some voter certificates signed by D.E. Davenport, and others by William R. Tinsley. [A. Ringel [sic] age 26 is listed next to Hiram Zerbey in the 1870 census. Ringel is listed with apparent wife Emaline and 2-year-old daughter Emma. Ringel was born in Pennsylvania, Emaline in Ohio, and Emma in Tennessee. Ringel was a farmer and reported \$2,250 in property.]

William Gilliam

Age 45, resident of 9th district, farmer. He was selected by John Wilder, the officer who held the election in his

precinct. Originally slated to be a judge, he ended up serving as a clerk. Esq. D.S. Long swore him in. 25 conservatives and three radicals voted. [Note: conservatives would refer to Democrats, radicals to Republicans.] About 15 to 20 colored men reside in the precinct, but none voted there. Colored men who wanted to vote went to Decherd. He voted for secession but was not in the army during the war, "I was for myself, trying to make a living." In the recent election, he voted for Seymour for President and Sheafe for Congress. [William Gillum *[sic]* age 47 is listed with Mary E. and four children in Franklin County's 9th District (town of Hawkerville) in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$740 in property. Listed near him are several other Gillum families and David S. Long, the justice of the peace he mentions in his testimony.]

John Wilder

Age 39, resident of 9th district, wagon-maker and farmer. He was appointed by William Tinsley to serve as officer in charge of the election in this district. Wilder sealed up the votes and gave them to R.J. Churchman, who was to deliver them to Tinsley. He saw a negro named Alfred Willis come to vote, but men blocked the door so Willis could not enter. Two other black men saw the trouble and turned away, walking to a blacksmith's shop nearby. Wilder went over to the shop and talked to the men. They said they wanted vote but were afraid of trouble. Wilder advised them not to insist upon voting. The year before, in the 1868 election, about twelve black men voted in that precinct. [John Wilder age 40 is listed with Malinda and five children in Franklin County's 9th District (town of Hawkerville) in the 1870 census. He was a wagon maker and reported \$1,475 in property.]



John Wilder (1830-1906)
as posted on Ancestry.com by
susanowen624

David S. Long

Age 55, resident of the 9th district, farmer and justice of the peace. On election day he swore in the poll workers, after which he remained at the polls most of the day. He saw nothing but a peaceful election. Long was a Confederate sympathizer during the war and voted Conservative (Democrat) in the last election. [David S. Long age 56 is listed with his family in Franklin County's 9th District in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$3,275 in property.]

John Miller

Age 58, resident of the 10th district, farmer. He served as a judge at the last election, and was sworn in by Esq. James Sargent. Only one vote was cast for General Grant, the others were for the conservatives (Democrats). "A good many" colored men came and voted. Miller saw five men in Ku-Klux disguise one night. Four came to his house and hitched their horses to the bannister but said nothing to him. He did not vote in the election for secession, but voted Democrat in the last election. [John Miller age 60 is listed with his family in Franklin County's 10th District in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$6,025 in property.]

James Sargent

Age 54, resides in the 10th district, farmer and justice of the peace. He was the receiving officer for the last election. Everything went smoothly, except for one drunk man who was allowed to vote. 71 votes were cast, all for the democratic ticket. 35 of the voters were colored men. Sargent took the returned votes to Winchester and gave them to Sheriff Willets. He has seen bands of disguised men several times; they came to his house once. He voted for secession. After the war he was given a certificate to vote by County Clerk Short, and voted for Governor in 1865. Last year he was given a certificate by Commissioner of Registration Chitwood, but it was was revoked by proclamation of the Governor. Chitwood was removed from office and D.E. Davenport was put in his place. Sargent applied to Davenport for a certificate several times but could not get one. Davenport claimed to have lost the poll list from the 1865 election and "said he thought I was entitled to a certificate, but I never got one. He promised me a

certificate, but I never got it.” [James Sargent is listed with supposed wife Serena and a large family in Franklin County’s 2nd District (Decherd) in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$1,455 in personal property and \$4,000 in real estate. His age is listed as 31, which is in error. The 1860 census confirms this is the same man and his birthdate is ca. 1816.]

Nathan Frizzell

Age 36, resident of the 8th district nine miles north of Winchester, serves as coroner of Franklin County. At the recent election he wrote the oath out for the poll officers and they signed it in his presence. I.G. Henderson, deputy sheriff and Commissioner of Registration, swore them in. After the voting Frizzell wrote out the certificates and sent the election returns to William R. Tinsley.

“Were you in Winchester during the election . . . in August, 1867, at the time when Brownlow was a candidate for Governor . . .” Frizzell said he was in town that morning, and that a company of militia were stationed there at that time. The militia marched to the public square and on to the courthouse yard. They carried an ammunition box upstairs in the courthouse. They remained around the polls armed with guns and fixed bayonets. He knew three men who did

not vote at that time because of the military presence. Prior to that the militia had established a “reign of terror” around the county, especially in the northwestern portion. “Several good citizens were driven from their homes” and had to hide out from the militia, others were interfered with and annoyed and in fear of the militia. There are currently pending in the circuit court indictments against some of these militia men for murder.

Frizzell has served as deputy for the county court clerk at various times for the past 20 years. After the war he was deputy to Mr. Short. He and Short compiled a book listing some 1,300 names of men who were certified to vote. When Davenport was appointed Commissioner of Registration he got possession of the book and it was never seen again.

There was no disturbance at the polls on election day in

DEATH OF NATHAN FRIZZELL, SR.—A highly respected man is no more, and the news will solemnly impress his many friends and acquaintances. Nathan Frizzell, Sr., died at Gallatin, in this State, on the 23d inst., at 4 p. m. On Monday, the 25th, his remains were received here, and interred in our cemetery, in accordance with his oft-repeated request to be buried among his old friends in Franklin county. He leaves a number of children and grandchildren, and a wife, to feel most keenly the loss of one who was so kind and noble.

Our subject was born in Pittsylvania county, Virginia, on the 3d of September, 1808. He emigrated, with his father, in 1825, and settled in what is now Coffee (then Bedford) county, in this State. On the 27th of November, 1827, he married Mary Jones, and followed agricultural pursuits, as a common laborer, until about 1833 or '34, when, on account of corpulency, he was compelled to adopt a different avocation. He selected teaching, and for about seven years taught the rudiments of an English education—spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic—paying particular attention to spelling, in which he was a remarkable adept. In January, 1841, he came to Winchester, preceding his family some three months, and commenced business as a merchant's clerk on a salary. In March, 1842, at a general county election, he was chosen Magistrate in the Winchester district. In January, 1843, he was Chairman of the County Court, and served one year. In March, 1844, he was elected, by a small majority, over strong competitors, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and was re-elected successively at the elections of 1848, 1852, 1856, and 1860.

He was ardent in his support of the South during the late war, at the close of which he declined accepting the position which he had so long held, although it was tendered him by the then presiding Judge, Hon. W. P. Hickerson. Since that time he has lived quietly at home, occupying no official position. In May, 1871, he broke up house-keeping, and determined to spend the remainder of his days with his children, and removed with a daughter to Gallatin.

He accepted early in life the doctrines of what was then known as the Republican party, led by Mr. Jefferson, and never once faltered in his devotion to the principles advocated by that party. Although quiet, he was earnest and consistent in support of the Democratic party as the successor of the party of Mr. Jefferson, and frequently at elections in Bedford county, his was the only democratic vote in a district comprising 100 voters.

The prominent characteristic of Nathan Frizzell, Sr., was frankness. All who knew him will agree with us in this remark, and as a boarder in his family for some time, seeing him in all the phases of life, we know whereof we speak, and it can be truthfully said of him that he never intentionally deceived any one about anything. When such a man dies society suffers, but what a blessing if all who die could leave behind them a character so untarnished and examples so worthy of imitation.

Obituary of Nathan Frizzell (1808-1871)
from the Winchester Home Journal
Sept. 28, 1871

1868, but a young man was shot in town that morning and later died of his wound. “But this was not on account of politics.” The young man appeared to be under 21 years of age.

As coroner, Frizzell held an inquest over the body of Raley [or Kelly?] Dodson who was found hanging from a tree in the courthouse yard one morning about Dec. 1, 1868. Dotson was jailed under three indictments for murder. Several masked men had gone into the jail, forced him outside, and hung him. He called together a Coroner’s jury which spent the day trying to determine who killed the man, but they only learned that several masked men came in the night and committed the murder. The men were seen by the jailor and other citizens, and all said they were strangers. The circuit court, under Judge Patterson, was in session at the time. A change of venue moving Dotson’s trial to Bedford County was being argued. Frizzell testified he had only seen masked men once, when he saw about eight of them one night in Winchester.

During the war he voted for secession and entered the Confederate army. He said, I “have no remorse of conscience on account of my course; am now, I think, a law-abiding citizen, and in favor of enforcing the laws.” [Nathan S. Frizzell age 61 and his family are listed in District 1 (Decherd) in the Franklin County 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$3,500 in property.]

M.C. Crabtree



Age 54, resident of the 16th district, farmer and justice of the peace. His name is given as McCrabtree. He conducted the election in his district. After the votes were in he certified them and sealed up all the paperwork. His son C.C. Crabtree delivered the packet to the sheriff or Mr. Tinsley. Only a dozen or so votes were placed, and Sheaf got one or two more than Tillman. His district is remote from Winchester, mostly in the mountains. There were no colored men living in the district. [Mack Crabtree age 55 is listed with Lucy, age 58, and two children in Franklin County’s 16th District in the 1870 census. He was a farmer and reported \$1,600 in property.]

McHarrison Crabtree (1812-1884)
as posted on Ancestry.com by
ThereseComeaux

John Chitwood

Age 53, resident of the 8th district, farmer. He was appointed commissioner of registration for a year in 1866-1867 by Gov. Brownlow. A proclamation of the Governor later set aside his appointment, and he was succeeded by D.E. Davenport. While he was commissioner he had a list of voters, called a poll book, which was given to him by County Court Clerk Short. When he was relieved from office he turned the book over to Short’s successor. The book showed 1,040 voters in the past two elections, with 837 for Brownlow in 1865. While Chitwood was commissioner he registered 1,078 voters. Of those, 50 or 60 obtained certificates on the ground of their “unconditional Unionism.” These registrations were made before colored men were allowed to vote. He did not register any colored voters and was opposed to giving colored men the vote. [John Chitwood age 54 is listed with Frances, age 49, and five children in Franklin County’s 8th District in the 1870 census. He was a Virginia-born farmer and reported \$4,000 in property.]

A.R. David

Age 57, resident of district 3rd, manufacturer and farmer. Has lived in Franklin and Lincoln counties for over 30 years. He was a clerk at the polls in Salem at the last election. Things went quietly until about 11 o’clock when a man came who insisted on voting, and seemed very anxious to vote. He did not have a valid certificate, only one signed by Chitwood. “He talked very hard to Mr. Horton” who as a compromise allowed him to vote on Chitwood’s certificate. David followed the man out, knowing the vote was not legal. He talked to man into coming back and withdrawing his ticket, which he did. After that it was quiet until a group of soldiers came after 2 o’clock. It was “a party of men

and boys [who] came in town under the influence of liquor and excitement, and commenced crowding around the polls. Several of them got in the house, and one of them occupied the window; and the one in the window said the radicals had been running this machine and he would run it now.” Chitwood asked an old gentleman “who had some influence” to help him clear the room, and they moved the men out of the voting area and into the clerk’s office. Chitwood testified that had they not cleared the room, bloodshed would have resulted. Chitwood then went outside and tried to calm the crowd “thinking I had some influence.” When the polls closed he went back in and worked until the votes were counted and certified. He then left for home. [A.R. David age 58 is listed in District 3 of Franklin County (town of Salem) with wife Mary and a boy named Jenkin. He worked in cotton manufacturing but reported no property. David also testified before the Southern Claims Commission on behalf of his neighbor, Joseph Trigg, in 1872. He testified that both he and Trigg were loyal Unionists.]

The foregoing depositions were taken by and before me . . . mayor of the said town of Winchester . . . I caused the same to be reduced to writing in my presence and in the presence of said parties, and the same were duly attested by the witnesses respectively.

Given and certified under my hand, this 18th day of May, 1869.

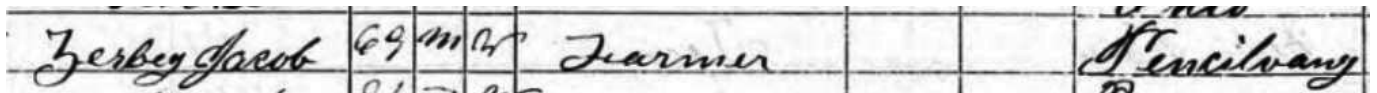
William L. Slatter, Mayor of the town of Winchester

To Be Continued



This *Harper's Weekly* cartoon depicted the situation of some black men in Middle Tennessee all too accurately. (Courtesy Tenn. State Library and Archives)

Creative Spelling



Census Enumerator J.H. Gillespie had a tough time spelling the state where Jacob Zerby was born. Spellings like this give us a good idea of the dialect in common use in Middle Tennessee at the time.

(Franklin County 1870 Census. 2nd Civil District)

The Murder of Ova Davis, Putnam County, 1887

by Mitzi Freeman

Part III

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*.ⁱ

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



THE SECOND TRIAL

The first attempt of the second trial was held 12 September 1888 with the same judge and trial lawyers. On 20 September, one of John's brothers (it was never explicitly stated which one) presented the court with an affidavit that John was not fit to stand trial.ⁱⁱ The court then continued the case until the next term.

On 21 January 1889, the second attempt at trial began. Newspapers reported that over 200 men had been examined to serve on the jury. Owing to the notoriety of the murder and the strong opinions formed by the potential jury pool, only two men were seated on the jury before the jurors were dismissed and the case continued to the next term of court. The two jurors chosen were W. B. Gillem and C. J. Martin.

Finally, on 13 May 1889, the case *State vs John W. Green* came to be heard. Fortunately, this time, the court was successful in seating a jury of twelve men: Joseph Stephens, J. N. Emory, Daniel Graham, Grant Graham, John Palmer, Zach Coleman, J. M. Welch, S. P. Evans, Charles Roberson, W. R. Neal, W. C. Heady and James McCloud.

Deputy Sheriff Joseph C. Kerr oversaw the jury.

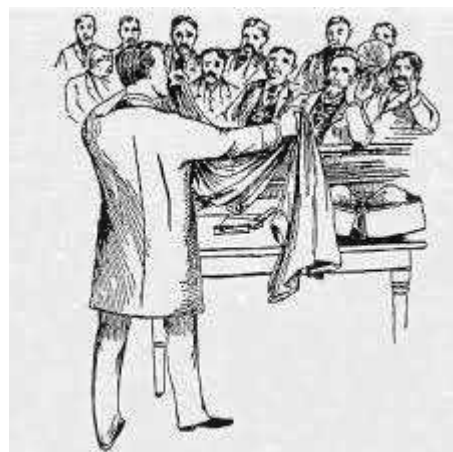
The prosecution called the following witnesses.

- William G. Davis testified that he was Ova's father. He detailed the events on the day of the murder.
- Joel C. Gabbert testified that he was the Jailor for Putnam County when John was brought to the jail. He described several conversations with John including John's version of events on the day of the murder and his description of the love pact between himself and Ova. He also described the surgery the doctors performed on John.
- John C. York described finding the couple on the porch and finding the suicide letter near the bodies.
- William G. Davis was recalled to the stand. He testified that Mr. Martin had given him a pistol with blood on it, and he gave it to Sheriff Bradford.

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- George M. Moore testified that he was currently the County Sheriff. Charles Bradford was his predecessor. Bradford delivered the murder weapon to him. The weapon was brought before him, and he testified that he believed it to be in the same condition as when he received it.
 - Albert Austin testified that he was William G. Davis's son-in-law. He detailed the conversation that he had with John at the church a week before the murder. He also testified to finding the couple on the porch.
 - Jim Parks testified that he was Ova's fiancée and described talking to John outside the jail.
 - James M. Stover testified that he was married to John's sister. He described John's visit to his house the morning of the murder.
 - James Cameron detailed the conversations at the spring while John's family was ministering to his wounds.
 - George Parks testified that he was one of the guards that stayed at John's house just after the shooting. He described John's account of how he stalked Ova during the week prior to the shooting and how he shot her on the porch.
 - Mat Martin testified that he and John were cousins. He described John's visit to his home the night before and the morning of the murder. He relayed how John often complained with his head and hearing water sloshing around inside. He stated that John also seemed depressed on many occasions.
 - Jim Goff testified that he had known John for a long time. In the winter or spring before the murder, he and John were on a raft together near Nashville. He testified about the letter John wrote to Mrs. Davis.
 - Sallie Davis testified that she was 16 years old and was home the morning that her sister was killed. She described the events of the morning of the murder. She also stated that Jim Parks and Tom Cameron visited Ova quite often.
 - Dr. Samuel B. Fowler testified that he examined John at the jail and removed a ball from his head. He testified as an expert witness on the objective and subjective symptoms he observed in John's behavior. Dr. Fowler stated that he did not believe that John was insane.
 - Reverend William Dinges testified that he prayed and sang with John while he was incarcerated.
 - George Cole testified that he had known John since the day he was born. He hauled John and some other boys to Dickson County in his wagon. George stated that he stayed two months while John stayed five months. Both men were working on the river.
 - James A. P. Fancher testified that he had known John since he was a little boy. He had often hired the Green brothers to work on his mill since all of them had experience with dynamite. He relayed an incident about John mismanaging money that Fancher had given him. He also stated that he had seen John on the Friday before the murder but never noticed anything unusual about his demeanor.
 - Ned Bozier testified that he was acquainted with John. He testified to the conversation he had with John about him purchasing his pistol in Dickson County.
 - Doc Bozarth testified that he had known John for about 20 years and worked with him on the river. He testified that about two weeks before the murder, John approached Mr. Davis about working on the river again. Both men were hoping to be hired.
 - John H. Medleyⁱⁱⁱ testified that he and John were second cousins and that he had known him since he was a little boy. He testified that before the Green boys approached Mr. Davis for work, they stayed several days at Medley's house. He testified that he thought John was of sound mind.
 - Ammond Martin testified that he and John's father were half-brothers and that he had known John all his life. He saw him the night before when John came by and invited him to go to a "Bee robbing." When Martin

inquired where it was being held, he replied “Down at Uncle K Elrods.”^{iv} Martin testified that he believed that John was in good health at this time.

- Dr. James F. Dyer testified that he served as physician for the county jail. He described the location of the balls in John’s head and the surgery performed to remove the balls. He also relayed the conversations that he had with John when he described how he killed Ova.
- Dr. Mat Durham testified that he was the doctor that tended to John when he was sick with typho-malarial fever in 1881-1882.
- John Braswell testified that he was the assistant jailor in Cookeville. He described the conversations John had with his lawyers and the doctors about removing the balls from his head. He believed that John was of sound mind and knew right from wrong.



Presenting evidence to the jury

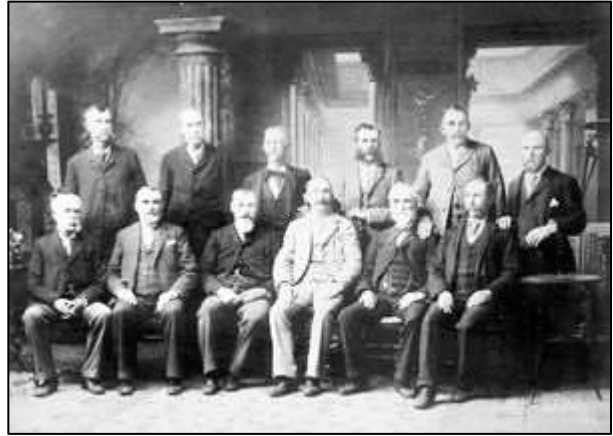
- Robert B. Capshaw testified that he was at the jail when it caught fire. He noticed that John came down the steps rapidly but did not run.
- Dow Terry testified he was at the jail when it caught fire. He saw John coming down the steps of his own accord.
- George H. Morgan testified that John’s brothers employed him to assist in his defense. When Captain Smith introduced him to John, Morgan asked him a series of questions to ascertain his mental capacity. To the question as to who killed Ova, John responded “a nigger killed her.” To the question as to John’s understanding of why he was on trial, John responded that “a nigger tried to kill me and I shot him.” For all other questions asked, John gave no intelligent answers. Morgan concluded that John did not understand the gravity of his circumstances.^v

At this point the prosecution rested. The defense began its rebuttal by calling the following witnesses.

- Alonzo L. “Lon” Green testified that he was John’s younger brother and that he was 28 years old. He described the events that took place at breakfast the morning of the shooting. He described finding John face down in the Davis yard and the subsequent conversations at the spring. He was present at Elizabeth’s house when John discussed the shooting in front of George Parks. Lon did not believe that John knew right from wrong. He and his family feared that one day John might kill himself.
- Elias Green testified that he was John’s older brother and that he lived with the Davises at the time of the shooting. He testified about the fever that he and John suffered years earlier. He talked about John’s complaints with his head and how he heard water sloshing around all the time. He heard his mother cry on multiple occasions that “he’s crazy or going crazy.”^{vi}
- Elizabeth Vinson testified that she was John’s mother. She described the events that transpired at the Davis house after her arrival. She believed that John was insane and did not know right from wrong on that morning. She also testified that Jesse Barr came by that morning to notify John that he needed to work on the road.
- Harrison A. Green testified that he was a brother to John. He remembered John’s behavior during his illness with the fever and his strange behavior after his illness subsided. He cited several incidents of odd behavior.
 - John had informed Catherine Myatt (who was now Catherine Lee) that they were married. He demanded to know why she had left him.

-
- One afternoon, John was plowing a field. Without reason, John suddenly veered off path and randomly started plowing another field.
 - Harrison had gone with John to Dickson County to find work. Often, John would just wander off by himself. He caught him several times feverishly pouring water over his head. John told him that if he did not get any relief that it would kill him.
 - Harrison also testified that the last time he had seen Ova, she had invited Harrison to attend church with her that Sunday (the Sunday after she was killed).
 - Newton Dunn testified that he and Thomas Cole were working at Cole's Crock Kiln when John came by about a week before the shooting. When he came in, he carried a gun which he set on the counter. He then climbed up on a ladder and hung his head for 15 to 20 minutes without saying a word. When Newton asked him if he had any tobacco, John replied that he did not. Then he claimed that he had been out hunting cows all day. He came down the ladder and retrieved his gun. He paused a few minutes, returned the gun to its place, and re-climbed the ladder. He hung his head for another 15 to 20 minutes before coming down the ladder, grabbing his gun and leaving.
 - Thomas Cole testified that he owned Cole's Crock Kiln. He confirmed Dunn's testimony.
 - John Morgan Elrod testified that he and John were cousins. He spoke about John's complaints with his head and with his ill health. On cross examination, he stated that he and William G. Davis were not on speaking terms. Davis had brought criminal charges against Elrod in court for setting fire to Davis's woods. Elrod bitterly complained that he was not the guilty party.
 - Chance C. Farley testified that he was a Deputy Sheriff in Putnam County. He had known John since he was a little boy. He refuted George Parks' testimony claiming that John only spoke nonsense. He confirmed the accounts where John complained of water sloshing around in his head. In the aftermath of the shooting, Farley stated that he and Davis were not on good terms; but he never expressed the reason for these feelings.
 - Mary Elrod testified that she was John's aunt and had known him for 20 years. She confirmed his bout with the fever. She also confirmed his strange behavior.
 - K. Elrod testified that he was John's uncle and that he had known John all his life. He confirmed the story about John plowing the wrong field and hearing water sloshing in his head.
 - William Myatt, Catherine Lee, Rachel Lafever, Pleas Farley, and Jesse Farley testified that they knew John and testified that they had witnessed his odd behavior.
 - Jesse Barr testified that he was the Overseer of the road. When he came by to tell John that he had to work on the road, John explained that his head was in "such a fix" that he was unable to do his part of the work.
 - J. C. Brown testified that he worked with John while they were in Dickson County. On one occasion, he saw John aim his unloaded pistol at his head and fire. Other times, he would just randomly shoot at trees.
 - Dr. Samuel B. Fowler was recalled to the stand. Defense objections were overruled. He testified about the operation to remove the balls from John's head. He testified to John's symptoms. He concluded that his objective symptoms suggested he was insane while his subjective symptoms suggested he was sane.
 - Walton Smith testified that he was one of John's attorneys and that he was present at the jail when the doctors operated on him.
 - Judge John A. Fite testified that he was the Judge at John's first trial. He talked about Dr. Fowler's testimony.

- Alvin W. Boyd and Jabez Watson testified that they were part of John's defense team. When they had John examined by Dr. Fowler in his office, Fowler stated that John was bordering on idiocy.
- Wade Harpole testified that he and the Sheriff were cousins and that he was staying at the jail when it caught fire. He testified to the events of the fire.^{vii}



"Twelve men good and true"
A jury about 1890

On 25 May 1889, the defense rested. Judge Fite gave the jury a lengthy set of instructions, including describing the differences between first- and second-degree murder and voluntary and involuntary manslaughter. He talked about how the defense introduced the claim of insanity. He then instructed the jury that they must consider John's mental condition at the time that he committed the murder. They could not judge on what they saw before them now. With that, the jury retired to the jury room.

Later that day, both sides were notified that a verdict was reached. John was escorted to court in the custody of Sheriff Kerr. The jury rendered a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. The Judge announced

"The Jury having found you guilty of the murder of Ova Davis in the First Degree. It is therefore the Judgment of this court that you for such your offense be hanged by the neck until you are dead in the County of Putnam, and that the Sheriff of Putnam County on Friday the 19 July 1889 in the Jail of Putnam County or an enclosure in the jail yard within the hours prescribed by law execute this sentence & that you pay the costs of this prosecution."^{viii}

As the verdict was read, John did not change expression or exhibit any outward signs that he understood what was happening, but rather he stared vacantly at the floor.

The defense requested an appeal before the next term of the Tennessee Supreme Court. To support their request, they presented affidavits from George H. Morgan, Jabez Watson and the Green family.

The Green family's affidavits conveyed their belief that John did not understand what was happening to him at the trial. They believed him to be a confirmed lunatic, and they begged for mercy from the court.

The affidavits from the attorneys Morgan and Watson detailed a little test that they performed on John while awaiting the jury's verdict.

THE TEST

While waiting for the jury to return its verdict, John's lawyers conspired with the Sheriff to leave John alone in a private room. When the lawyers entered the room, they pointed out to him that he had already been convicted of murder. Since they were his lawyers, nothing that he might say could ever be used against him. The lawyers explained that they had tried every means possible to get him acquitted. However, he was going to hang. One of them opened the back door and pointed to a nearby plum thicket in the woods. He claimed that the best thing that John could do for himself was to run away and hide. He continued telling John that they were not his keepers and that there was little they could do if he chose to escape.

John just sat at the table and continued to stare vacantly at the floor. He gave no indication that he either heard or understood what they were saying.

Again, they implored him to make his getaway; saying that if he did not, he would hang.

John just sat there and muttered incoherently to himself.

One of the lawyers told him that he would rather see him get away than to hang in the middle of town like the Brassells had several years earlier. He would surely hang — if he did not get away.

John gazed out the door with clear indifference. When he did choose to speak, he moaned “Take me home to my bed where I can sleep” and “I want to go home.”^{ix}

Another lawyer told him that it had been proven in court that John would rather die at his own hand than to be hung by officials. The Sheriff, who was in on the ruse, entered the room and announced that it would be better if they just cut his throat right then and there.

Still, John calmly sat muttering about going home while simply gazing out the door.

The lawyers and the Sheriff then discussed among themselves in detail how they would go about slitting John’s throat. Then they put on a great display of performing the act.

Still, he failed to respond.

The Sheriff produced a knife and pretended to draw it across John’s neck. When that failed to elicit any response, he pantomimed plunging the knife in John’s throat.

All these displays of violence failed to create a change in his demeanor. He continued to mumble “I want to go home. Take me home so I can go to sleep. I want to lay down in my bed. Let me go to sleep!”^x

In one final attempt to evoke an emotional response, one of his lawyers handed him a pocketknife. He took it and played with it as if it were a toy. As he played with the knife, he manifested a silly childish grin — much like a child regarding a pretty new plaything.

When his lawyers were satisfied John was not faking, they left him in care of the Sheriff. Each drafted an affidavit detailing their attempts to get John to escape or to kill himself. George H. Morgan concluded by saying “that he was satisfied that from all these circumstances that the defendant is so demented that he knows nothing about what is transpiring around him.”^{xi} Jabez Watson supported Morgan’s statement with his interpretation of these events.

The Defense made a motion for an appeal in the next term of the Supreme. The appeal was granted, and the case *State vs John W. Green* would be heard in the Tennessee Supreme Court.

To Be Continued

NOTES

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

ⁱⁱ “COOKEVILLE - The Political Cauldron - Murder Case Continued - A Serious Accident,” *Daily American* (Nashville, Tennessee), 23 September 1888, p. 9, col. 7, digital images, *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/118879926/> : accessed 12 May 2016).

ⁱⁱⁱ Although court transcripts clearly identify the witness as “John H. Medley,” it is believed that the witness is John H. Medlin. Most of the Medleys lived in the north-western part of the county. The Medlins lived in the area where the shooting occurred.

^{iv} “Ammon Martin Testimony,” *State vs Green*.

^v “John H. Morgan Testimony,” *State vs Green*.

^{vi} “Elias Green Testimony,” *State vs Green*.

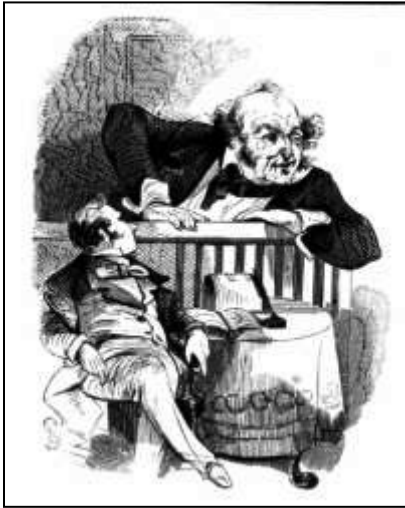
^{vii} “Wade Harpole Testimony,” *State vs Green*.

^{viii} “Judge John A. Fite’s Instruction to the Jury,” *State vs Green*.

^{ix} “George H. Morgan Affidavit,” *State vs Green*.

^x *Ibid*.

^{xi} *Ibid*.



To The Honorable... Petitions to the State Legislature

Dickson County residents in 1837
ask help for veteran Zachariah Sullivan

Based on Petition Number 120,
Legislative Records of 1837
Record Group 60, Tennessee State Library & Archives

To the next honourable general assembly to be held for the State of Tennessee 1837. We your undersigned petitioners of the County of Dickson and State aforesaid being acquainted with Zechariah Sulavan [sic, Sullivan] of Williamson County who is at his time in a low state of health occasioned by the great fatigues that the said Zechariah received by serving three Indian Campaigns {to wit} two under General Jackson and one under General Armstrong all served as volunteer by the great fatigue in the wet weather said Z. Sulavin received on the 18th in the Flouredys and the said Sulavan having a [large family] and has a breast complaint that renders him [unreadable] to labour we pray for your honors to allow him some compensation for his support. September 10th day 1837.

I do hereby certify that Zachariah Sullivant did serve the florida Campaign in my Company that went from Dickson County and that he was a good soldier. Sept. 16th 1837. William Tatum

J. Pendergrass
Thomas Shepperd
James Tidwill
John B. Car
Benjamin McKan[?]
John Brown
James Lampley
Alford Brown
N.W. Tidwill
Josiah Tidwill
Marvill Ledwell
John Sandorson
Martin Carter [Garter?]
--lias Tidwill
Wm. Parker
Aqualor Tidwill

Edmund Tidwill
David Caslomon[?]
Solomon Martin
Benjamin Tidwill
John Underhill
Benjamun Walker[?]
E.F. Pendergrass
J.R. Pendergrass
George Galleon
Nathan Gilbert[?]
W.T. Reynolds
James Thedford
John Scott
J.A. Battle
Wm. Hightower
[two illegible names]

Mark Harrill
Thom[?] McMany
E.T. Gray
Samuel[?] Bugg
Jas. W. Llod
W.S. Dunnangan
T. J. Miller
Charles Dunnagan[?]
Stanford Dunnagan
Andrew[?] Dunnagan
Jonathan Petey[?]
Benjamin Wise[?]
G.H. Swisher
Thomas Overton
Allen Nesbitt
James Jobe
William Lain[?]

Peter Eppes
Thos. Gentry
BEnj. Pritchard
Smith Garret
Thomas C. Jeek[?]
Lewis Magu
West. W. [illegible]
John G. Bowin
John Wheeluk[?]
Joseph Hendrix[?]

William Yiners[?]
William Sellars
James[?] Sanders[?]
James C. Green
John A. Pewitt
Abner Jones
Wm. G. Jones
Lewis Pewitt
Joseph Pewitt
John Watkins
Adam Pewit
Frederick Wright

John Busard
John Hendrix
Bennett Aden
Daniel Jones
William [--]rley
Isaac Ivy
A.Buckelew
Jas. Judge
Henry Pewit
James Smith
Wm. P. Anderson

Notes from the document's jacket:

A petition from sundry citizens of Dickson County for relief of Zachariah Sullivan, a soldier in the Indian campaigns.

Dickson Co.

R. McNeilly

14 Oct. 1837 referred to the Com. On Propositions and Grievances. H.M.N., clk.

Acted on by Committee

Who Was Zachariah Sullivan?

This petition brings to mind so many questions that it is hard to know where to start. Firstly, why were Dickson County men petitioning on behalf of a man who lived in Williamson County? In addition to the text of the petition itself, we also know this to be true because "R. McNeilly" is written on the jacket and Robert McNeilly (1807-1885) served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from Dickson County from 1837 to 1839. He was a lawyer living in Charlotte (Tenn.).

We do not know what action the Committee on Propositions and Grievances took on this petition, but we can state with certainty that no legislative act resulted from it. For the state to reward one soldier of the Indian Wars would have opened the floodgates to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of petitions on behalf of other Tennessee veterans similarly situated. States relied on the federal government to provide military pensions, though in its usual fashion Congress waited until long after most of the Indian War soldiers were dead before providing funds – **in 1892!**

Military records show that "Zacharias" Sullivan was a Corporal in Capt. Tatum's company of Trousdale's 2nd Tennessee Mounted Infantry in the Second Seminole War, about 1836.¹ There was little honor gained from this military action of Andrew Jackson's administration, in which Seminole towns were burned and families killed or starved out by American soldiers. The object of the war was to clear Florida of Native Americans so that white settlers could take the land.

A Zachariah Sullivan also fought in the War of 1812, and may be the same man. His company was headed by Capt. James Hamilton and Col. (later Governor) William Hall.²

¹ Virgil White, *Index to Volunteer Soldiers in Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815-1858* (Waynesboro, TN: National Historical Publishing Co., 1994), p.1364. Some muster rolls from Tatum's company can be found in Record Group 158 at the Tenn. State Library & Archives (Military Records 1812-1836).

² Byron and Samuel Sistler, *Tennesseans in the War of 1812* (Nashville: Sistler & Assoc., 1992), p.1502.

Census and other records provide a number of clues about Zachariah Sullivan, but whether these records all pertain to one man is uncertain. There could have been two, or possibly three, Zachariah Sullivans in Tennessee during the early 19th century.

In 1818 Zachariah Sullivan claimed one acre of land on Turnbull Creek in Davidson County. The record does not indicate that he owned any adjoining land, which is peculiar. The adjoining owners were named W. Lytle and Mr. Piles[?]. Most land grants were for much larger tracts. No other entries for Sullivan are recorded. Why did he claim only one acre when his neighbors were all claiming hundreds? It's one mystery among many in this story.

The same man, presumably, appears in the 1820 census in Nashville. That record indicates Sullivan was aged 26-45, but there were two men of that age in the household. There were also four children under 10, and a female 26-45. Three slaves are enumerated with the household.³

A biographical sketch published in 1885 tells us that the subject, H. Sullivan (his full name is never given), was born in Dickson County in 1828, the son of Zachariah and Emily (Goss) Sullivan. H. Sullivan was the fifth of seven children, and one of five boys. Zachariah is said to be a native of Kentucky, and his father's name was Joseph Sullivan. Emily Goss Sullivan died about 1851. The grandfather (Joseph) was said to have served in the Florida and Mexican wars.⁴ Whether all the facts in such an account are reliable is always questionable, but it seems likely that Zachariah Sullivan did marry Emily Goss and had a son (H.) in 1828.

The 1830 census confirms the biographical sketch in several particulars. Zachariah Sullivan is listed in Dickson County and does have three boys and two girls under age 15 in his household. Zachariah appears to be aged 40-50, and his presumed wife is 30-40. One male and two females aged 15-20 were also living with the Sullivans; these may be family members or hired help. No slaves were reported.⁵

By 1836 Zachariah had evidently moved to Williamson County, as he paid taxes there that year. He owned 40 acres in the 1st civil district and paid one white poll. Listed next was Thomas Sullivan who had no land but paid one poll.⁶

Just one year later, in 1837, Zachariah is listed in a Bedford County tax list. At that time he owned 50 acres in the 22nd civil district, and paid only the single poll tax.⁷

The 1840 census shows that Zachariah had moved yet again, to Franklin County, where he is found with three children under five. The two adults in the household, male and female, were aged 30-39.⁸ But wait! If Zachariah was over 40 in 1830, how could he be under 40 ten years later? Something is amiss.

Looking further afield, the Ancestry.com index to the 1840 census shows "Luchariah Sulvan" in Graves County, Kentucky. This man is aged 50-59, with his presumed wife 40-49, a much better match for the man from Tennessee. Also in the household were five younger men and two teenaged women. The family owned no slaves.⁹ Thus we believe Zachariah left middle Tennessee and traveled northwest to the area near Mayfield, Kentucky. The younger Zachariah in Franklin County may be his son or nephew.

By 1850 men named Zachariah Sullivan had multiplied -- ten or more are found in the southern states and one in New Jersey. Something must have happened to our Zachariah in Kentucky to break up his household. Likely it was the death of his wife, Emily Goss. We find a Zach Sullivan, age 70, living with young Thomas Shepherd and his

³ 1820 U.S. census, Davidson Co., Tenn., Nashville, p. 48, digital image, *HeritageQuest.com*.

⁴ J.H. Battle, et al., *History of Kentucky* (Battey Publishing Co., 1885).

⁵ 1830 U.S. census, Dickson Co., Tenn., p. 314, digital image, *HeritageQuest.com*.

⁶ *Tennessee Early Tax List Records*, Williamson Co., 1836, district 1, p. 380, digital image, *Ancestry.com*

⁷ *Tennessee Early Tax List Records*, Bedford Co., 1837, district 22, p. 310, digital image, *Ancestry.com*

⁸ 1840 U.S. census, Franklin Co., Tenn., p.74, digital image, *Heritage Quest.com*

⁹ 1840 U.S. census, Graves Co., Kentucky, p.128, digital image, *Heritage Quest.com*

family in Ballard County, Kentucky. Also with the Shepherds are William Sullivan age 15 and Susan Sullivan age 50. Next door is the Adam Clingman family with Henry (age 24) and George (age 18) Sullivan.¹⁰ How all these Sullivans, Shepherds and Clingmans may be related is a task some researcher in the family needs to tackle.

Descendants of this Sullivan family have posted very limited data on *Ancestry.com*. Despite the quantity of census and other data readily available about Zachariah, none of those who posted provided documentation to prove the family connections.

622622	Adam Clingman	28 M	Married	Ky
	Rich "	25 A		Ky
	Eli "	6 M		Ky
	Mary "	1 A		Ky
	George "	3 M		Ky
	Sylvester "	1 A		Ky
	Henry Sullivan	24 M	Married	Ky
	George Sullivan	18 M	Married	Ky
623623	Thomas Shepherd	37 M	Married	Ky
	Mary "	33 A		Ky
	Mary "	3 A		Ky
	John Sullivan	40 M	Married	Ky
	William "	15 M	Married	Ky
	Susan	50 A		Ky

Zack Sullivan, age 70, shown here in the 1850 of Ballard County, Kentucky

Camp, near Fayetteville,
July 3rd, 1836.

DEAR SIR,

I should have written to you ere this, but nothing of sufficient interest occurred until the elections in, and the organization of, the army took place. These were effected yesterday, and I seize the first opportunity to communicate the result to you and our patrons and friends.

We arrived here on Wednesday, and from that time until the morning of the 1st of July, (Friday,) companies of volunteers for the southern service were constantly pouring in. Never have I seen a more noble looking set of fellows. The larger proportion of them were in the bloom of youth, or in the vigor of manhood, and all seemed pressing on with eagerness towards the field of action. They were better mounted and better equipped than I thought it possible to mount and equip the same number of men in so short a time; and among them were found members of the most respectable families in Western Tennessee.

Those companies which had not been mustered into the service at Nashville, amounting to ten, were taken through that ceremony on Friday the 1st, by Captain Kingsley, who looks and acts the old soldier very handsomely. The whole number of companies received and mustered in amounted to twenty, making a force of something more than fifteen hundred men. More than thirty other companies, amounting to upwards of two thousand men, had been reported to the Governor, but he considered that, under the order of the Secretary of War, he would not receive more than he did from West Tennessee. Such a thing is of unusual occurrence. Is there another state in the Union in which *two thousand* volunteers more than were required, could have offered their services at the call of the government, especially when the season of the year and the country for which the army is destined, are taken into consideration? Honor to Tennessee—she is becoming what Virginia once was, the brightest star in our constellation!

Mustering the Troops for the Seminole War in 1836 (*Nashville Republican*, 9 July 1836)

¹⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Ballard Co., Kentucky, p.295A (stamped), families 622 and 623, digital image on *HeritageQuest.com*.

Middle Tennessee Businesses, 1868

From King's Nashville City Directory (part 4)

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.)

Death of Wm. Gosling, Esq.
 We regret to have to chronicle the death of Mr. William Gosling, which occurred at his home, in Shelbyville, yesterday morning, after a long and very distressing illness. For a long number of years Mr. Gosling has been one of the most prominent men of Shelbyville, and was well known in business circles of this city as a safe, reliable and enterprising business man. He was an extensive manufacturer for a long time, being the proprietor of the well-known cotton manufactory known as the *Sylvan Mills*, and was subsequently senior member of the firm of Gosling, Caldwell & Co.
 His loss is a blow to the whole community in which he lives, his life having been largely devoted to public and liberal enterprises. Particularly was he a pillar to public schools, being at the time of his death one of the directors of the schools, and having, before the establishment of the public school system in that county, educated annually a number of poor children whose parents were dead or unable to educate them. His burial will occur in Shelbyville this morning, the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a prominent member, officiating.

NORMANDY
Flour Mill and Saw Mill **General Store** **Wool Carding Factory**
 Gosling, William Culley & Co. Gosling, William

TULLAHOMA¹

Attorneys
 Bishop, F.G.
 Byrom, W.F.
 Hunt, E.F.

Boots & Shoes
 Crain & Watts
 Crain & Witherby
 Lester & Elkins
 McLemore, S.J.
 Mead & Comfort
 Waite, W. & Co.

Greenbacks.
 WE WISH TO BUY
Corn, Wheat, Peas, Beans, &c.
 COME ON AT ONCE.
CRAN E & WITHERBY.

Tullahoma Hotel.
 G. H. NORTON, PROPRIETOR.
 Near the Depot, at the Junction of the Manchester and McMinnville Railroad, and the Tullahoma and Fayetteville Pike. - sept 28-71

Carpenters and Builders
 Blanton, T.S.
 Cromie, M.S.
 Davidson & Sons Gunnaway, T.P.
 Williams, James Woodruff, G.G.

Carriage Manufactory
 Hill, J.S.

¹ The Tullahoma advertisements are taken from the 2 Nov. 1867 issue of the (Tullahoma) *Appalachian*, Tenn. State Library & Archives..

TULLAHOMA (cont.)

Druggists

Crain & Witherby
Williams, J.S.
Witherby, Joel

Dry Goods

Campbell & Genthner
Crane & Witherby
Lester & Elkins
McLemore, S.J.
Waite, W. & Co.

Express Office

Southern Express, Geo. Stillman, Agent

Groceries

Campbell & Genthner
Crane & Witherby
Lester & Elkins
Shoffner & Co.
Waite, W. & Co.

Hardware

Crane & Witherby
Lester & Elkins

Hotel

Crabtree House

Livery Stable

McLemore, S.J.

Magistrates

Byram, W.F.
Payne, J.S.

Merchant Tailor

Lichtlinchter, J.

Physicians

Allent, W.T.
Hart, Seth
Holt, A.M.

Post Office

Davidson, G.W., Postmaster

Produce Dealer

Thomas, J.F., nr depot

Railroad Agent

Stillman, George

Geo. W. Davidson & Sons,
CARPENTERS
AND
CABINET MAKERS.

ATLANTIC ST., TULLAHOMA, TENN.
And Agents for the

Blue Springs Manufacturing Company.

Can furnish at short notice,
Bureaus, Bedsteads,
Tables, Sofas,
Wardrobes, Lounges,
Stands, Chairs,

Panel Doors, Window Sash,

Moldings, Brackets, Dressed and Matched
Flooring and Ceiling, Undressed Lumber,
Framing, Joists, Fencing, &c. &c.

COFFINS

of every variety furnished on short notice.
Plans, Specifications and Estimates for
buildings furnished at easy rates. Orders so-
lited.

Geo. W. Davidson,
J. W. Davidson,
G. N. Davidson.

sep21-1f

LASATER & ELKINS,

DEALERS IN

Dry Goods

And Notions,

Hardware and Cutlery,

Queens-ware & Tin-ware,

GROCERIES & DRUGS,

CONFECTIONERIES, &c.

RAILROAD NOTICE.

McMinnville & Manchester
RAILROAD.

The citizens of Coffee, Cannon, Warren, White, Van Buren and Grundy Counties are notified that the McMinnville & Manchester Railroad is completed to McMinnville. The Road is in first class condition to carry all the surplus products of the country. We will give special through rates to all points on connecting Roads.

Such attention will be given to the shipment of
HOGS, CATTLE, SHEEP, CORN, POTATOES AND APPLES,
and at so low rates of freight as cannot fail to be satisfactory to shippers.

For particular information apply to
JOHN G. TANNATT,
Gen'l. Sup't., McMinnville, Tenn.
Or **GEORGE STILLMAN,**
Agent, Tullahoma.
CHAS. H. IRVIN, Receiver.

P. S.—On and after the 1st of October, the Southern Express Company will run an Express over the Road. sept28-1f

Masonic Institute,
TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE.

H. C. HOLT, Principal.
Mrs. KATE HOLT, Assistant.

Saddles and Harness
Crane & Thurston

Saloons
Cribben, E.K.
Mitchell, James

Supt. Public Schools
Thomas, J.F., nr depot

U.S. Assessor
Thomas, J.F., nr depot

JAMES G. AYDELOTT,
WITH
CRANE & WITHERBY,
Dry Goods, Grocery, and General Merchants.
AND WITH
AYDELOTT & STEPHENS,
Saddle and Harness Makers.
sep21-1f TULLAHOMA, TENN.

D. P. ARMSTRONG'S
Flouring Mills.
I would call the attention of Farmers to my Mills, known as the "SPRING CREEK MILLS."
I am now prepared to make the best of flour which I will guarantee to be second to none.—
Give me a call and see what I can do.
oct5-1m D. P. ARMSTRONG.

HURRICANE SPRINGS.
These justly Celebrated Springs are in Franklin County, 6 miles south of Tullahoma. Are kept open all the year for Invalids. Hacks will be found at the Depot at all times to convey passengers to the Springs. The waters of these Springs are not equaled by any others known in the cure of all Diseases of the Liver, Kidneys, Stomach and Bowels.
BOARD, \$1.50 PER DAY.
For further particulars, address, **W. G. MILLER, Proprietor,**
Tullahoma, Tenn.

Tullahoma advertisements shown here are from The Appalachian, 2 Nov. 1867. The Hurricane Springs ad is in King's Directory.

DECHERD

Dry Goods

Austell & Bennett
Brannan & Williams
Howlett, Charles

Groceries

Austell & Bennett
Brannan & Williams
Howlett, Charles
Oakley & Bro.

Produce Dealers

Gill, G.B. & Bro.

Saloons

Embry & Caldwell
Lenchan, Joseph



1888 Rand McNally Map showing Tullahoma at top and Decherd at the junction of two railroads

This concludes the list of towns on the Nashville & Northwestern Railroad

Louisville & Nashville Railroad

Chartered in 1850 this railroad line had a slow start, but on the eve of the Civil War it reached south from Louisville to Nashville with about 180 miles of track. During the war it profited from valuable contracts with the Union Army for shipping troops and supplies. In the later years of the 19th century it expanded its lines to St. Louis and New Orleans. It is the only railroad listed in King's 1868 directory which stood the test of time, continuing into the 1980s.

“The above road, running from Louisville to Nashville, is one hundred and eighty-five miles in length, commencing at Louisville, Kentucky, and ending at Nashville, Tennessee. It connects at Louisville with all the roads running North, East and West, and the various Packet lines running on the Western rivers; at Nashville [it connects with] the

road diverging East, South and West, and the Packets on the Cumberland river[. At] Memphis Junction it makes close connections with the Memphis Branch, which road connects with other roads conveying passengers through to Memphis and other river points.”

Madison: Is a small station 7 miles from Nashville and 178 miles from Louisville.

Edgefield Junction: A small station in Davidson Co. at the junction of the Edgefield & Kentucky Railroad, 10 miles from Nashville. (Business listing follows.)

Hendersonville: A small post village in Sumner Co. 15 miles from Nashville. (Business listing follows.)

Sandersville: A small post village in Sumner Co. 19 miles from Nashville. Population 50. (Business listing follows.)

Pilot Knob: A small way-station in Sumner Co. 21 miles from Nashville. No businesses listed.

Gallatin: The county seat of Sumner Co., 26 miles from Nashville, is one of the oldest towns in the state. It is finely located in a beautiful, rich and fertile country. (Business listing follows.)

South Tunnel: A small post village in Sumner Co., 33 miles from Nashville.

Fountain Head: A small post village in Sumner Co., 39 miles from Nashville. Population 25.

Richland: A small post village in Sumner Co., 41 miles from Nashville. Population 30.

Mitchellville: A small post village in Sumner Co., 44 miles from Nashville and 141 miles from Louisville.

Here the railroad crosses the state line into Kentucky; the directory does not continue.



A locomotive stands in front of the Louisville & Nashville railroad depot on Church Street in Nashville, ca. 1870. The depot is the building with turrets just behind the train. The taller building to the rear is thought to be the Nashville Female Academy. (Library Photo Collection, Tenn. State Library & Archives.)

EDGEFIELD

Dry Goods

Galvin, James
Schwachhammer, Jacob

Groceries,

Galvin, James

Saw Mill

Browne & Metcalfe

Railroad Agent

Ramsey, Joseph

HENDERSONVILLE

Dry Goods

Ackerman, Thomas
Butler, S.D.
Doxy, John L.

Groceries

Butler, S.D.
Clendening, Charles
Doxy, John L.

Post Master

Clendening, Charles

Saloon

Doxy & Franklin

Physicians

Dismukes, T.T.
Watson, George S.

GALLATIN

Agricultural Implements

Dismukes, Paul
Nicholson, J.
Peacock, J.

Attorneys

Bate, Wm. B.
Elkin, M.S.
Guild & Blackmore
Head, Jno. W. & Son
Mills, Jno. P.
Munday, W.S.
Peyton & Bennett
Russwurm, T.E.S.
Turner, J.J.

Bakery

Isse, Jno.
Shottenheimer, Jno.

Barber

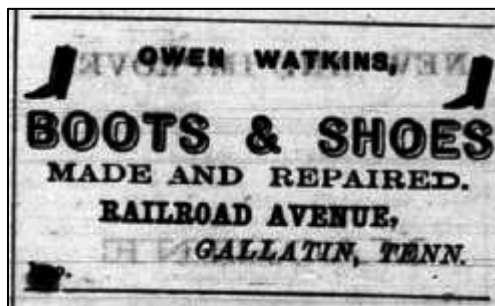
Bugg, H.

Blacksmiths

Love & Pearson

Books and Stationery

Harmon, R.B.



Boots and Shoes

Allen & Cantrell
Barrett, F.
Beebe, R.
Brown, Jno. & Sons
Natcher, Jos.
Vaughan, H.B.

Clothing

Strong, Levy & Co.

Confectionery

Strother, W. & Co.

Cotton and Yarn Manufacturers

Fitzgerald, Henry & Co.

Drugs and Medicines

Schell & Bro.
Schrode, I.V.
Tompkins & Blakemore

Dry Goods

Allen & Cantrell
Beebe, R.
Bell, Jno.
Brown, Jno. & Sons
Harris, Hensell & Co.
Holden, W.F.
Lucas, M.J.
Rodemer, J.C.
Strong, Levy & Co.
Vaughan, H.B.
Will, L.
Wright, Wm. & Son

Express Agent

Barth, M.

Flour Mill

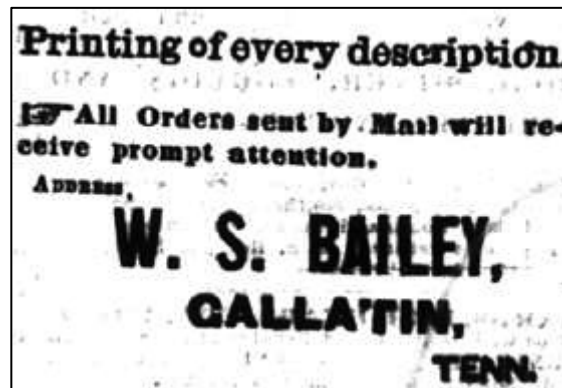
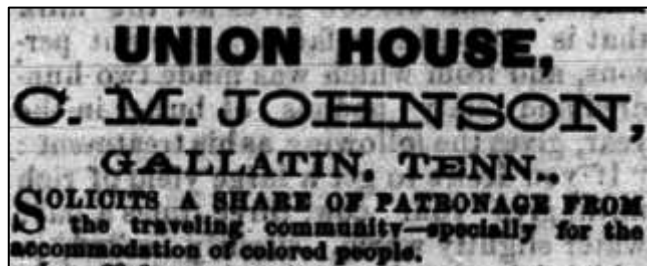
Lyon, Sam'l

Furniture

Blue & Jackson

Government Officials

Peacock, James, Mayor
Lovell, Wm. A., Sheriff
Dodd, William, Probate Judge
Barry, J.R., Chancery Court Clerk



Don't Forget to Check the Vertical Files!

Notes from the Carson Family File

The term “vertical file” used to be a standard in public and academic libraries, but with the advent of the internet most libraries discarded their vertical files. However research libraries such as the Tenn. State Library & Archives still rely upon the vertical file as a place to keep the odds and ends that don't fit anywhere else.

At the Tenn. State Library & Archives all the vertical file titles are listed in the catalog. If you search the catalog for “Carson Family,” for instance, you will find an entry directing you to the vertical file. Hundreds of family files are in the collection, containing information dropped in by librarians over the past 100 years or so.



The Library & Archives also has files about places and subjects ranging from African-American Baseball Players to the Zion Baptist Church. These are not yet listed in the catalog, but a printed list is available in the reading room.

Whenever you are visiting a library to do genealogical research, ask whether they have vertical files. There may be a hidden trove of information there, and you don't want to miss it!

As an example, here follows an inventory of the items found in the Carson Surname File.

Typescript Family History

“Carson Family History” a 99 page typescript donated by E.E. Eledge of Pettigrew, Arkansas. Information about Samuel Carson b.1768 who came to Washington County, Tenn. when young and married Anna Jarnagin. The booklet contains information about their ancestors, descendants, and collateral families.

Articles

Article from “Appalj” in 1992 about Jo Carson, an author, playwright and performer from Johnson City, Tenn. An interview with Ms. Carson is part of the 11-page article. Illustrated dust jackets from four of Ms. Carson's works are also in the file.

Article about Sam Carson, city editor of The Tennessean, 1930.

Article about Jeff L. Carson of Madisonville, Monroe County, who tried to steal his mother's military pension (Mrs. Caroline B. Carson), 1873.

Article about David Carson of Nashville, a Gulf War veteran, and his pen pal of 17 years, 2007.

Announcements

Announcement of the Carson Family Reunion in Stanford Kentucky, 1971. “Be prepared to sing old time songs.”

Genealogical Charts

“The Carson Family of Savannah” a single-page genealogical chart beginning with Daniel Carson (1785-1852) and wife Aarah Hynson.



The Vertical file at the Library & Archives holds many Family Bible Records. Most have been scanned and placed in an online database.

Visit the website at tn.sos.gov/tsla and search the green bar for "Bible Records" to find the data.

Bible Records

Bible record beginning with Robert Carson born 1740. Includes John Carson born 1768, William Carson born 1770, Mary Carson born 1774, Samuel Carson born 1776, Willis Carson born 1786.

Obituaries

Sam K. Carson, Clinton, Tenn., 1955. Former Comptroller for the State, born ca. 1908 in Washington County, Tenn.

Martha Carson, Nashville, 1904. Grand Ole Opry member and wife of James Carson, a mandolin player.

James Carson, Columbia, Tenn., 2009. Trainer of walking horses.

Josephine (Jo) Catron Carson, Johnson City, Tenn., 2011. Author and storyteller.

Carson Family Bible

The Bible record photocopies in the vertical file were hard to read, but in this unusual case the original Bible, published in Dublin, Ireland, in 1753, is also housed in the Library & Archives. A study of the original provides these entries, though they are rather confused.

Robert Carson born 17 Oct. 1740

John Carson born 4 May 1768

William Carson born 10 Mar. 1770

(written below as 4 Mar. 1768)

Robert Carson born

(no date, but written below as 10 Mar. 1770)

Mary Carson born 24 Feb. 1774

Samuel Carson born 25 __ 1776

John Carson born 8 April 1779

[Thomas?] Carson born __ Mar. 1781

Willis Carson born 1 Sept. 1786

(written below as 5 Nov. 1786)

James Carson born 8 Apr. 1788

S. [S.?] Morgan born 6 Feb. 1815[?]

--- Carson born 22 May 1814[?] (crossed out)

William Carson born 24 Dec. 1815 (crossed out)

Susan Carson [name only]

Capt. James Carson died 17 Feb. 1863

Ellen Carson died 18 Nov. 1864

It appears that at least part of this family settled in Rutherford County. The death date of Capt. James Carson in 1863 is confirmed by an entry on *Findagrave.com* in a Carson Cemetery located near Eagleville. However there are no photographs confirming the presence of a tombstone.



Every-Name Index

MTGS Journal
Volume XXXIII, 2019-2020
Indexed by Jim Long

Introduction to the Index

We believe that every genealogical work requires a complete index, and to that end provide an every-name index in the fourth and final issue of each volume of the Journal. This index includes names, places and miscellaneous. Pagination of Volume XXXIII began with page 1 in the Summer 2019 issue and continued through this issue. The following notes prepared during the indexing process will be helpful to the reader.

- Individuals identified in the text as *slaves/former slaves* are indexed with (slaves) entered before their name.
- If the maiden name of a female is known, she is listed under both her married and maiden names.

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