

# Rutherford County Historical Society

PUBLICATION NO.8



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## Winter 1977

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Rutherford County Historical Society

Publication No. 8

### THE COVER

The Mordici Burgess Wade house was built in 1823, according to a date found on a foundation rock. Russ Stockard, a great grandson, who lives across the road from the old house, was the fourth generation born there. The sketch is from an early photograph and shows the home as it appeared about 1900.

A storm that came through the community in 1924 or 1925 damaged two or three rooms of the house and it had to be remodeled. Just recently the exterior of the house has been given a fresh coat of paint and the interior has been beautifully redecorated. The house is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Max Carter, who reside there.

The cover sketch was done by Mr. Jim Matheny of Murfreesboro, Tenn. from an old photograph furnished by Allen J. Stockard. Mr. Matheny, a member of the Historical Society, operated an artist-sign firm on South Church St. in Murfreesboro.

The Rutherford County Historical Society would also like to express their appreciation to Rutherford County Judge Ben Hall McFarlin and Mrs. Susan R. Jones for their help in the publishing of this book.

Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
1976

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RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. 8

Published by the

RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Publication No. 8 (Limited Edition-350 copies) is distributed to members of the Society. The annual membership dues is \$5.00 (Family-\$7.00) which includes the regular publications and the monthly NEWSLETTER to all members. Additional copies of Publication No. 8 may be obtained at \$3.50 per copy.

All correspondence concerning additional copies, contributions to future issues, and membership should be addressed to

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RUTHERFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. 8

FOREWORD

This volume is the eighth in a series begun in the summer of 1973. The Society is dedicated to the study and preservation of Rutherford County's history, and the publications of the organization represent a major effort to achieve this goal. If this issue is as well received as the first seven, then it will soon become a collector's item.

The contributions in this issue show the richness of our county's past. In this Bicentennial period it is especially appropriate that these pages contain the pension application of Jordan Williford, Revolutionary War veteran, and the roster of Colonel Hardy Murfree's Revolutionary War company. A history of the Leanna Community and a history of the Crowder family of Rutherford County round out this volume. In addition, a list of back numbers of our Publication still available is included for those wishing to add them to their library.

Robert B. Jones  
President





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HISTORY OF  
BETHEL - LEANA  
COMMUNITY

BY

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Sanders



## FOREWORD

The history of Bethel-Leana Community was started before the Historical Society announced plans for the community histories. It was our desire to try to help those who wanted to learn something about their community. We are happy to cooperate with the Historical Society in its worthy project. We are deeply grateful for the wonderful cooperation in our efforts to obtain material.

The history has been compiled through research, contributions by those interested in the community and its history, and in a trek down memory lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Sanders



## BETHEL-LEANA COMMUNITY

Let us take you on a tour of Bethel-Leana community, show you the area it embraces and tell you about places and events that have contributed to its history. We will start where Sulphur Springs Rd. starts, at the Lebanon Pike - today's 231 N. out of Murfreesboro. Sulphur Springs Rd. curves around many of the old farms as it winds its way through the community to the west fork of Stones River.

We always knew when we got to the Bostic place we turned left off the pike. There the long straight lanes began, each one led generally north or west and how cold in winter and hot in summer these lanes could be. They were bad, too, sometimes almost impassable.

One of the first landmarks called to mind was the creek ford, where the horses were watered before starting the long drive home. The kids were allowed to wade while the horses drank. The ford is gone with time, having been bridged, as most of them are. There was a pretty waterfall of twelve inches or more near where the bridge is. Many people admired the little waterfall. It was especially pretty when the snows fell in winter.

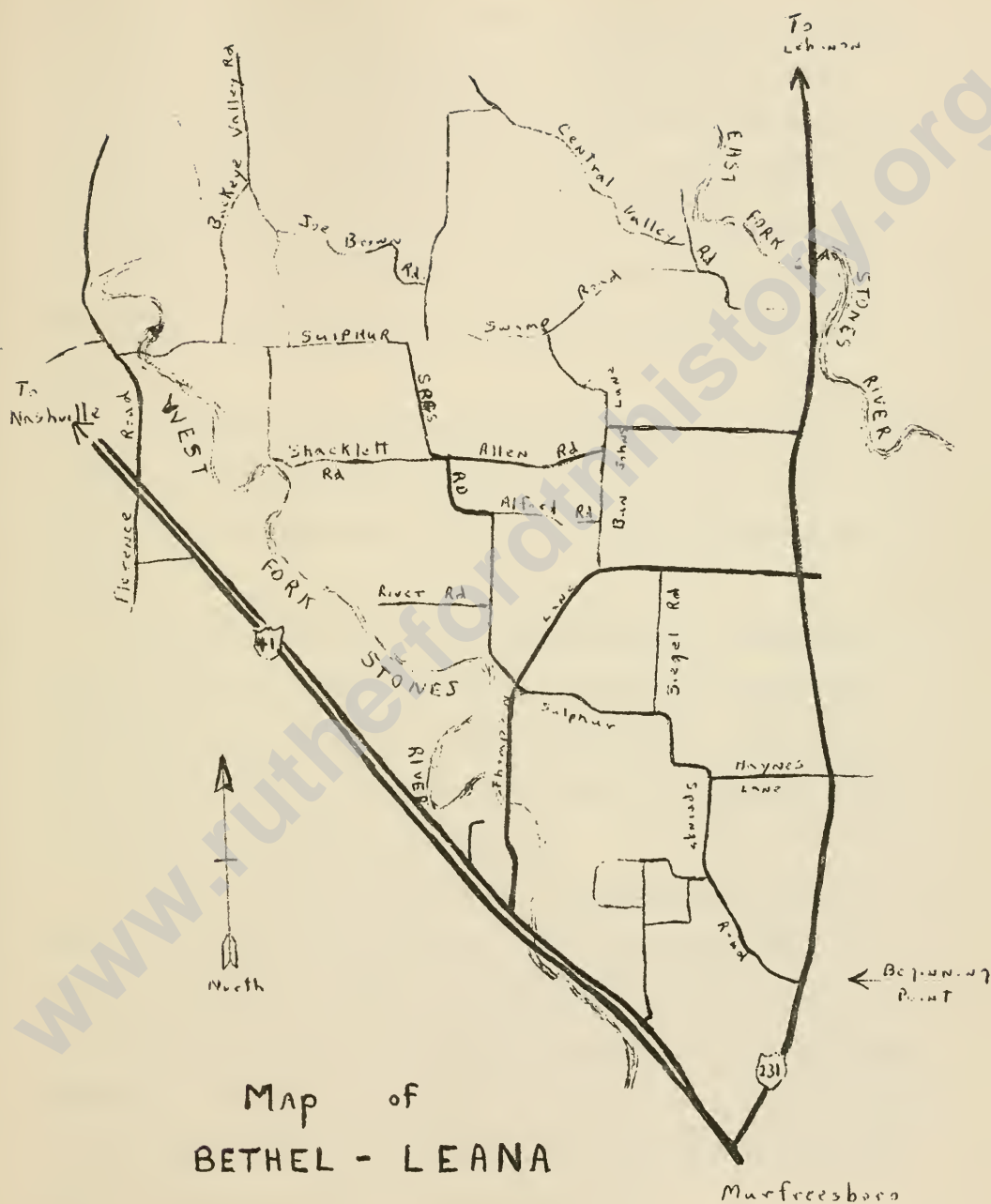
Then came the Joe P. Smith farm next to the Haynes place, where Mr. and Mrs. Reed Brendle live. Between these places was the double creek ford, where the creek ran through the fence made a horseshoe bend and went back into the lot.

By this time things were picking up. Jim Hutcherson built a store near Battleground Drive, now Mears Street. The sign over the store read, "STOP AND GET YOUR FORGOTS". This store was very convenient, as something would usually be forgotten and remembered on the way home.

Next came the Vol Dill farm. The house was a story and a half,









built of logs with a lean-to for the kitchen. At this point there was another creek ford. Then came the Cranor hill. Off to the left was the Cranor house which still stands. From this hill to the northeast could be seen the James Haynes home, Castlewood. Now we come to that long Haynes Lane, so hot in summer and cold in winter. At the end of this part of the road we turn west. A little way off the road, to the left, is the Billie Mitchell farm, where Mr. Sam Mitchell was born and spent most of his boyhood days.

At this point the road turns north by the Rayburn place and the little cemetery. On the right is the Horace Palmer farm. He was a noted lawyer of olden days. The place is now owned by J. I. Bowers and Mrs. Owen Jacobs.

The road turns west and we come to the old Sulphur Springs from which the road we are traveling got its name. The rock covering around the spring is still intact. Changes have been made in the original road. This road has often been confused with the road by the same name that leads to the Sulphur Springs resort near Jefferson.

Long before the road was built a little community was born about eight miles northwest of Murfreesboro. We are now entering this community. It is bounded as follows: on the west by Stones River, on the south by the river, sinking creek and Sulphur Spgs. Rd., east by Old Sulphur Springs Rd., now known as Siegel Road; north and west to Swamp Road, west to present Leanna-Central Valley Road to the road known as the Joe Brown Road; then generally west to the Buckeye Valley Road.

At first the community was known as Bear Wallow because the bears



inhabited the rugged territory and came out of hibernation to sun and take a dip in the "bluehole", a large, deep hole of water so clear it looked blue. It was on the land that is now owned by Mr. Buchanan.

When Ebenezer MacGowan, one of the early settlers in the community, gave land for a church and school he called both the church and school Bethel, and changed the name of the community from Bear Wallow to Bethel.

When a postoffice was established in the community Mr. Billie Smith, operator of the store where it was to be located, was asked what name to give the postoffice. He replied, "Leana", believing the name of Mrs. J. E. Stockird, wife of another of the early settlers was Leana. She was the former Miss Leonora Russworm, the daughter of Col. John Russworm, also an early citizen. She was greatly beloved by all who knew her and everyone spoke of her as "Miss Lee". Mr. Smith had known someone by the name of Leana who was called Miss Lee. Thinking this was true with Mrs. Stockird, he suggested the name of Leana for the postoffice. The name continued to be used after the postoffice was closed and until this day the community is known as Bethel-Leana community.

Now that we know something about the location of the community, its boundaries, and how it got its name, let's go further down the road and learn something about its homes and its people. We do not presume to be able to give exact boundary lines, amount of acreage on farms, nor all families at given locations throughout the area. We endeavoring the acquaint you with some of the first citizens and land owners by locating their property through present ownership.

On the left, as we enter the community, is the home of Mr. and Mrs.



Edward L. Jordan, Sr. The house is on part of the Billie Mitchell place. Across the road is one of the many new homes being erected, an example of the growth and development taking place throughout the area.

Names of the earliest settlers we have found, who lived within the bounds of the community are Bowman, Elliott, Russworm, Stockird, MacGowan and Wade.

Beginning somewhere near the community boundary line on the east and covering a large territory was the Wade settlement. John Wade and two of his brothers, William and James, immigrated, with their families, from Maryland to Rutherford County prior to 1820. They became large land owners, acquiring immense wealth, and also became patriarch of a number of offspring who have become widely scattered in this county and state.

We are driving west past the Presbyterian Campground where, for a number of years, people of different denominations gathered for a few weeks during the summer months for worship and Bible study. The Campground was on land known today as the T. A. Jamison farm. There was also a Presbyterian church in this area.

As we drive past the Campground we come to the Ross place, on the right, formerly Wade property, where the George Walkup family settled when they came to this community in 1901. Mr. Walkup built a house on the property in 1906. It was a very attractive home, with beautiful shade trees on the lawn. In later years the place became the property of Mr. Walkup's daughter, Mrs. Florence Walkup Brown. Mr. and Mrs. Foster Vaught have a home on the Walkup, Ross Wade land, as do the Ralph Coes and others. The remainder of the farm has been sold to Obrien Realty Co. and is being developed into home sites.





Off to the left we see the "Mitchell Farm", as it was called for many years, it being the home of Mr. Sam Mitchell. The property belonged to a Carney before Mr. Mitchell owned it. At least a part of it was Wade land at one time, as evidenced by the fact that Richard W. Wade mentioned in his will his "Carney Tract". However, it later came into Mr. Sam Mitchell's possession. The land joined the property of his father, Billie Mitchell. It was here "Mr. Sam", married. Many have owned acerage and lived on the land. The Thomas Becton home is where the Carney house stood. It is now on Thompson Lane. A part of Riverview Drive is on Mitchell-Carney-Wade land.

Until the last three or four years one would have to be very careful when driving further down the Sulphur Springs road because if followed the river for some distance. At this point there was a dangerous curve, and on one side a drop of 20 to 40 feet to the water. During heavy rains the water rose to great depths, making the road impassable, and driving hazardous. This was eliminated when Obrien Realty Co., at the request of many citizens of the community, closed this segment of the road and opened a new link a few hundred yards north of the closing point. It crosses Thompson Lane connecting with Sulphur Springs Road to the right at the T. A. Jamison farm, on the left near the bend of the river. Several houses have been built on the new loop of road, among them the attractive home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ragland, a two-story log structure. The place is called "Rooster Hill". Near the location of the Ragland home stood the old Ross house, many years ago. It, too, was a log structure built along the plans of its day .

As we enter the original road, and follow its trail further into the



community, we pass, on the left, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Thompson, near the banks of Stones River. A short distance down the road is the home of Aubrey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Thompson. Here we will stop for a few minutes and view the surrounding territory. The place where Mr. and Mrs. Thompson live is the homestead of John Wade, Sr., one of the brothers who immigrated from Maryland. At his death the homestead was inherited by his youngest son, Richard W. Wade and another son, Henry C. Wade. This place has been in multiple possession, some of the owners having lived on parts thereof. Among those owning the property were F. R. Burris, S. H. Mitchell, E. B. Hunt, B. L. Ridley, J. A. and Doc Thomas, W.H. Christopher and W.E. Tilford. Mr. Thompson purchased the place from G. Y. Smith.

At his death in 1880 Richard W. Wade owned a large acreage in different sections of the county. His land in this area was sold in six tracts, bought by G.C. Batey, N.C. Collier, James Moore, E.K. Thomas, and E.B. Hunt. Those living on the homeplace of John Wade, Sr., in addition to D.W. Thompson, are Aubrey Thompson, Alvin Hudson, and W.B. Atchley. The land extended to the river. There are records showing John Wade, Sr. bought the other land in this immediate area.

Across the lane, now River Road - according to legal papers "opened for the benefit of all the lots" - is property once owned by Mordici Burgess Wade, another son of John Wade, Sr. He owned a large tract of land. The main body was known as his homeplace upon which he resided at his death. It contained eight or nine hundred acres of land, bound in general terms as follows: "on the north by J.E. Stockird and others; on the east by Julius C. Wade and others; on the south by W.R. and H.C. Wade; and on the west



by James Mayberry, C. M. Miles and others. "

The homeplace contained land he purchased from the estate of John C. Wade; from O. H. Wade; William Smith; two tracts from his late father, John S. Wade, Sr.; a portion from the estate of William Elliott; another from the Weakley estate, bought jointly by Mordici and his brothers, Richard W. and Henry C. Wade. The balance of said home tract was purchased from persons not known but was in his possession for more than 20 years before his death. He also owned land in other locations. It was stipulated in his will that his real and personal property not be divided for two years after his death. About two years later commissioners were appointed to make divisions of said lands, setting out to R. W. and H. C. Wade their portion of the Weakley tract, and to the children of M. B. Wade their respective portions of the whole estate.

The tract where his home stands contained 607 acres and extended from the River Road to the present Shacklett Rd. At his sale, land in this tract was purchased by N. C. Collier and James C. Moore. In 1905 N. C. Collier sold his interest to J. A. Jones, in 1916 James A. Moore sold his interest to Mr. Jones. Jones, Collier and Moore owned the land exclusively for 40 years. Mr. W. W. Vaught came in possession of a portion of the land in 1885. He sold to T. A. Jamison, who sold it to Mr. Jones in 1920.

Among those living on the property today are, facing River Rd. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Jones, and the Allen family, the Allen property was once owned by W. W. Vaught, later by the Schell family. Fronting the Sulphur Springs Road are the homes of the Eubanks, Buggs, B. T. Walkups, Mary Fann and Johnnie Eakes, Mrs. Tom Arms and Mrs. Bea Arms. We will see more of this place when we go further



down the road.

To our right is property known as the Gran Batey place. It joined the Ross-Walkup (formerly Wade property) on the south. This plot of ground was bought in three tracts, Ninety-nine acres from the estate of R. W. Wade, forty acres from S. H. Mitchell, which he bought from F. R.

Burris, ninety-six acres bought by Mrs. Gran Batey from Thomas Miller. Mrs. Howard Primm lives at the Batey homeplace. The house, more than 150 years old, was torn down and replaced by a beautiful modern home a few years ago. The old house is thought to have probably belonged to the Col. William Wade estate, since he is known to have owned this property at one time, or to the previous owner, Major Joel Dyer.

Others who have owned it are E. H. Burton, C. M. and W. E. Stockard, T. A. and Lee Jamison. The land was divided into many smaller tracts. Jim Sloan owned acreage on the southern border, which he sold to E. O. Peel. It was later bought by Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Knight and sold by them to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jennings. Mrs. Jennings still owns the property. Mr. Sloan also sold a parcel of land to Mr. Joe Brewer, where Mrs. Brewer lives. F. B. Arms, James (Buck) Arms, Jack Arms and Jack Davis families are other present day owners.

Next is land owned by Mr. and Mrs. John B. Jones, where Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clifton and Mrs. Mary Arms live. It was once Tom Zumbro property. Little Ranch Acres, the first housing project in the community, was formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lum Gannon, prior to them by Mr. Gail Tomberlain. The Lloyd Adams farm joins Little Ranch Acres on the north and is adjacent to Alford Road.

This land is not specifically mentioned as part of the Wade property





but from information in deeds and from individuals, it seems likely that Col. William Wade, or some member of the Wade family, owned most, if not all, of this large tract of land. There is a Wade cemetery on the F. B. Arms property where Col. William Wade, his wife, Casandra Jones Wade, and members of their family are buried. Among them is a daughter, Caroline Wade Watkins, and her husband, Col. Wilson S. Watkins. On the bill of sale of the Col. William Wade estate, Oct. 14, 1849, it was noted that he bought this land from Major Joel Dyer. Deeds on record in the courthouse verify this statement. Col. W. L. Watkins also owned land in this vicinity, according to deeds.

Mrs. Tom Arms and Mrs. Bea Arms (Miss Tom and Miss Bea, as they are so lovingly known) live across from the Adams place, on Sulphur Springs Rd. We are again seeing a part of the Mordici Wade land. Across from this tract is other land belonging to him, now owned by a descendant, Russ Stockard. It extends to the Allen Road.

As we come down the road and round another of those numerous curves we see still more of the Mordici Wade property, passing the new home of the Gilberts, the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Arms, Roy Arms, Buddy Arms, and River Oaks, the second housing project started in the community.

Next is one of the oldest and most beautiful houses in Bethel-Leana community, the homeplace of Mordici Wade. Its huge columns, spacious and attractive structure has been admired by many passers-by. It was for a number of years the home of the Allen James family. Mrs. James was Texana Wade, daughter of Mordici. She came in possession of this



tract in the division of her father's estate. Russ Stockard, a great grandson, lived here for several years, until he and Mrs. Stockard built their home across the road. The Max Carter family live at the Wade homeplace now.

Just down the road is the trailer home of the White family. Their neighbors are the Neals, Dockerys and other families not known.

Opposite these homes is property at one time owned by Walter Wade, one of the fifteen children of William and Cassandra Jones Wade. He died in 1849 and the land was owned by other people. On his parcel of land facing Sulphur Springs Road are the home of the Lee Brewers, Leana Church of Christ, and the homes of B. T. Lane and the Robert Lane family.

Across from his property, as we round another curve, is the old Bowman place. Early records show this land was purchased from Thomas Bedford and Robert Weakley, and was part of a grant from North Carolina. It is said to be the first Deed of Conveyance made in the newly formed county of Rutherford in its first session of County Court in 1804. Living on the Bowman land fronting Sulphur Springs Road are James Boyd Gannon, J. W. Tomberlain, and Ernest Tomberlain families. The Riley Marlins lived at the J. W. Tomberlain place for many years.

Joining Bowman on the north, also Walter Wade on the north, was Ebenezer MacGowan. On March 14, 1817, MacGowan bought 1184 acres of land from Alpha Kingsley for the sum of \$2,500, a little over \$ 2.00 an acre. According to the deed, the land lay between the east and west forks of Stones River, a few miles south of the town of Jefferson, bounded by John McNairy, Joseph Moderall, and Robert Weakley. It was a tract of land granted by the state of North Carolina to Robert Weakley and Thomas Bedford in 1801, and conveyed to Alpha Kingsley by Robert Purdy by deed bearing the date of



July 15, 1813.

Bethel Methodist Church, and parsonage, a store and a number of homes have been established on the MacGowan land to the right of the road. Opposite the store is Bethel School and next to the school is the home of Billie Reid. The MacGowan house stood on the now vacant lot between the homes of Billie Reid and his father, Tommy Reid.

The house was built in 1817 by Mr. MacGowan with logs out of timber cut from the still dense forest. Rooms were later added on the front by J. E. Stockird, son-in-law of Ebenezer MacGowan. The stately old house stood for a long time on the large, shady lawn but was torn down several years ago. Within its walls were found records that revealed information of interest.

The last direct descendant to live in the house was Mattie Stockird Hunt (Mrs. J. W. Hunt). She lived there for thirty-five years. The house was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Buchanan, then by the Marcos Vaughter family. Mrs. Vaughter out-lived her family by a number of years and lived at the MacGowan house for the remainder of her life. Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Reid and family were the last people to live in the old house. The building was bought by Martin Rooker and is part of the log house near the Lebanon Road, occupied by he and his family.

Joining Tommy Reid is the Charlie Ross home. The house was built many years ago for Mr. Jim Burnett, who lived there at various times. T. R. White lived in the house for a while. Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Cox bought the place in 1919. These families operated the country store, the only store in the community at that time. Ronnie Ross lives next to his father and operated a barber shop in his spare time. Down the road and around the

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corner on the left are the homes of the Buchanans and Willie Peyton Young.

The MacGowan land joined the Elliott property on the west. The Elliotts are known to have been here since around 1801. A record has been found of land bought by John Elliott that was part of a soldier's claim by the name of James Frick. The Elliott's were also large land owners. Their land in this community extended from McGowan's line to Stones River. The first house on Elliott land, joining Willie Peyton Young home is one of the oldest houses in this area, the T. A. Stockird homeplace. It is known to have been built prior to 1816. Ebenezer MacGowan lived here for awhile before building his house. Several of the Stockird descendants have lived at the old homeplace. It was later owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Howse. Mr. and Mrs. Williams live there and across from the Buchanans, Young and Stockird places are the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tomberlain, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Tomberlain, R. M. Miers, and others who have recently moved into the community.

Next, on the left beyond the Stockird place, is the Elliott homeplace. The old house, built of logs, consisted of two rooms with a story above one room, and an outside staircase. The house is gone but an old pear tree in the yard still bears fruit. Pieces of dishes, earthenware, and cookware can be found in the yard. The last family to have lived in the house were a Mr. Reartoe and his widowed daughter, Mrs. Anna O'boy. About 200 yards northeast of the house is the family burying ground, where most of the Elliott family, and probably friends and neighbors were buried. Most of the old places of that day had a cemetery nearby where family and friends were laid to rest.

Embracing most of the Elliott homeplace is land bought by Drury J.





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Sanders, a few years after he returned from service in the Civil War.

The first house he built was two log rooms with an open hall between. Other rooms have been added from time to time. A grandson still lives at the old home. Dury J. Sanders married Frances Jane Stockird, on November 12, 1860. She was the daughter of James E. Stockird and Lucy MacGowan. James E. Stockird was the son of Jane Elliott and William Alonzo Stockird. Among other Elliott descendants who lived in the immediate area were Mary Elliott, who married Captain William Smith, Eleanor Elliott, married William Arnold, James, John, William, Catherine, and Alford Elliott, all descendants of William and Debroah White Elliott.

Joining the Sanders place, as we continue toward the river, is land once owned by George and Amanda Elder, which they bought from Zachery Dismukes. It has been sold in several plots and a number of houses have been built on the one-hundred acre tract.

Adjoining the Elder property was the Zachery Dismukes place, once owned by Mr. and Mrs. John G. Stockard. It was previously owned by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Jarrett. Mrs. Jarrett is the daughter of Zachery T. and Lockie R. Stockird Dismukes. Another daughter, Hattie and her husband, Harry Smith, lived in an attractive stone house they built on a knoll and a few hundred yards southwest of the old Dismukes home. Mr. and Mrs.

Creel have built a lovely new home just north of the rock house, so many houses, old and new have been erected on Elliott land.

Levi Wade, at one time, owned the land across the road adjacent to the river. He purchased it from the estate of James Elliott and later sold it to Richard W. Wade. The tract covered a large acreage on the north side of the road, including the "Arthur Place", mentioned in the will of Richard



W. Wade. It is known as the D. C. Vaughter place, and is the northwest border of the community. The Bob Davis, Bob Cook, Harvey Clark (formerly the Sumner Dismukes place) and the Jim Taylors at Suits-Us Farm are among the families who have lived or are living on this part of the Elliott property.

Much of the land that constitutes Bethel-Leana community is on roads leading from Sulphur Springs Road. Between the east boundary, where we entered the community, and Stones River, the west boundary, there are five roads on the right--old Sulphur Springs, now Siegel Road, Alford, formerly Brandon Lane, Allen Road, and Swamp and Buckeye Valley Roads. On the northern border is the Joe Brown Road, connected with Swamp Road by a part of Central Valley Road.

On the old Sulphur Springs Road was the home of Judge Joseph Lindsey. He, too, owned a large acreage, at different times, in various parts of the community. His home place extended across what is now Thompson Lane. There is record of his having bought a small tract of land in this area from W. L. Watkins, and two tracts, containing more than 300 acres, from the estate of William Wade. Tract #3 of Joseph Lindsey land was bought from his estate by Thomas Miller, which he later sold to Mrs. Granville Batey, 96 acres and is part of the land owned by Mrs. Howard Primm. The Lindsey land was bound on the east by Palmer property, now owned by J. I. Bowers. The present Sulphur Springs Road borders the land on the south. Roads and lines have been changed since the early settlers bought their land, making it difficult to establish boundary lines as they were originally. Many of the old deeds mentioned Murfreesboro Road, but not the road to Murfreesboro just as we know it today.

In his will, Judge Lindsey spoke of his Mansion House, his home on



old Sulphur Springs Road. A citizen of the community remembers being in the old house in the early 1900's. It had 15 or 20 rooms then. He remembered hearing some of the older people say several of the rooms had been torn away because they were so dilapidated. Only a small part of the old mansion house remains. Camillas Sims, Arthur Bass, Ed and John Hooper have owned the property. Today Stan Hooper and his family live in a beautiful modern home on the same grounds.

Not far from the Lindsey property was the home of T. G. Miles. The house faced present Thompson Lane, then known as the Batey, Miles, or Sims road. It was a beautiful structure of its day. Mr. Miles was lovingly known as "Uncle Tom" by kinsfolk and friends. For many years they enjoyed meeting at his home on the Sunday nearest his birthday, which was usually Mother's Day, to celebrate with him his Special Day. There was always a huge basket dinner spread on the spacious lawn. These gatherings were always memorable events, but one especially will long be remembered. A bountiful dinner had been spread by the large crowd present. Each one was ready, with plate in hand, to enjoy the delectable feast when a sudden downpour of rain sent them scampering hither and thither trying to save the food, and themselves, from a drenching rain.

There were several more acres of the Miles property with frontage on the Bun Johns Lane. The land has been sold in smaller parcels upon which new homes have been constructed.

Eddie Jordan joins the Miles place. His land includes acreage extending to the Cherry Road and embracing the farms once known as the Theodore Long place, better known as the Dockery home, and the Cas and William Stockard place, the old Adams property, where Eddie and his



family live.

The Driver Trailer Court also faces Bun Johns Lane, which connected with the Swamp Road at the John L. Rooker place. This segment has been named West Compton Road. Next is the beautiful new home of Frank and Ann Stone.

On the Alford (or Brandon) Road, coming from the Bun Johns lane, are the homes of Richard Mingle, Gary and Patsey Moore and Golden Moore, who lives at one of the oldest places in this area, the old Brandon homeplace, previously the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hunt. The old deed states the land was part of lots #3 and #4 in the division of the estate of John O. Wade. Much of the land in this area was Wade land. Others living on the Alford Road are Roger and Sue Austin, the Blansetts, Hubert McColough, B. B. Wheeler, James Drake, and Hoyte Mingle. Hoyte's grandfather, George Mingle, was one of the older settlers. He lived on this road, near Hoyte's home. Mrs. Loyd Adams lives on the corner of Alford and Sulphur Springs Road. In this vicinity is property owned years ago by the Hollowell family. On the right as we come to the Sulphur Springs Road is land owned by Russ Stockard, once Mordici Wade property.

The Shelia Adams family own the farm on the Allen Road adjacent to the Bun Johns Lane, re-named at this point Leana Road. The Bennett's, Pointers, and William and Shirley Mingle are among those who have built lovely new homes on Allen-Cherry Road. Shirley operates a beauty shop in her home. On the right is the John T. Allen property, bought by John's grandfather, J. J. Allen, in 1877 from the Julius C. Wade estate. It was bound by O. H. Wade, land once owned by M. B. Wade, Mrs. John C. Wade, Leroy Wade, and J. E. Stockird. Mr. Allen later married Mrs.





Julius C. Wade.

Originally a log cabin stood on the land, similar in Construction to the houses of the day. In 1830 Mr. Wade built a beautiful new house. He ordered the finest of lumber from Philadelphia. It was shipped by rail to Florence, Tenn. The house was one of the most attractive in the community depicting the beauty and charm of an era that is past. It stood as a landmark for more than 100 years.

Mr. Allen was the owner of fine stock. In 1897 he went in his buggy to the World's Fair in St. Louis, driving one of his fine horses. It took about a month to make the trip.

The Andrew Jackson Trail, the road Andrew Jackson followed on his trips to Washington, crossed the Allen farm and continued to the Compton Road, crossing the Lebanon Road near where the V. A. Hospital is located.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Allen, John's father and mother, spent their entire married life on this farm. It was Mr. Allen's childhood home. In 1906 a tract of land across the road was bought by Mr. Allen from Allen James. It was Mordici Wade property.

Next to John's home is the 100 acre tract owned by Harry and Ann Ward, a part of the Walter Wade land. It has been divided into several smaller plots. Among those living there are James B. and Julius Ward.

Joining the Ward acreage are the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bullock, on Walter Wade's land.

Across the road is the northern border of Mordici Wade land belonging to Russ Stockard. Parallel to the road is the Wade slave burying ground. One of the graves is that of Martin Wade, a servant of many of the Wade



descendants. He was born in a log cabin on the place. Here he lived his entire life and raised his family in the house where he was born.

The Hoyte Sanford land borders Leana Road on the right, between Allen and Swamp Roads. A few hundred yards from the Sanford farm are homes of Mr. and Mrs. James Shipp, the Scotts, and other families who reside at Bethel-Leana.

The Wendell Rooker heirs own acreage on the left as we turn onto the Swamp Road. Joining this land is the Odell place, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Tarpley. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hunt lived here several years. According to Mr. and Mrs. Tarpley's records it was once owned by J. E. Stockird.

Robert Jenkins, Aaron Hunter, Dot Cantrell, W. T. Mullins, Calanus Wrather, Mrs. Andrew Mays, Kelly Ross, Zion Hill Baptist church and parsonage are on land owned by Ebenezer MacGowan. His property on this road extended from the Jenkins place south to Walter Wade line, thence west to Sulphur Springs Road.

Across the Swamp Road from Leana Road is the home of Mr. John L. Rooker, where Mrs. Nodie Barrett lives. The Lawrence Barrett place is also on John L. Rooker land. The Sam Wrather home on Haynes property, Mr. and Mrs. Hurt on Robert Wrather land, Jesse Young families at Simcon Hunt place, Mrs. Sallie Barrett on Will Atkinson property are some of the people residing on the right-hand side of Swamp Road. Now we come to Central Valley Road. Here are the homes of the Johnnie Russell family and Mrs. Mahaffey, who joins the Joe Brown Road. Johnnie and Vernie Harrell border it on the north. Living further down the road just outside bounds of the community but attending church here are the Willie Russell



and C. C. Barrett families.

On the Joe Brown Road are the homes of Joe Brown and many of his descendants and John Swader and many of his descendants. It connects with Buckeye Valley Road.

Joe Brown is the oldest black citizen in the community, having spent most of his ninety years here. He is the son of Hosea and Sallie Huddleston Brown. John Swader is another of the older black citizens.

Mrs. Charlie Wrather's homeplace is on the corner of Leana-Central Valley and Swamp Roads. The original owner of the tracts land on this side of Swamp Road has not been definitely determined. Mrs. Wrather's property joins Tri-Way Market, on the corner of Sulphur Springs and Swamp Roads. Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who operate the market, live in the next house.

Buckeye Valley or Buckeye Bottom is the name given the next road on the right. It is adjacent to the McElroy place, which fronts Sulphur Springs Road. Mr. and Mrs. Benton Hestand and family live in the first house on Buckeye Valley Road. Among other families on this part of the road are the Rhodens, Goods, Hutchisons, Tomlins, Halls and Barretts. Buckeye Valley Road continues to the Fred Gannon farm. Here it turns left and crosses a hill, forming a curve and connecting with Sulphur Springs Road between the property of John Stockard and J. W. Taylor. Some of the families on this loop of the road are the Watleys, Kimbros, Frank Maynards, Eliner Lowerys, Jack Browning and J. N. Spears.

There are only two roads leading from Sulphur Springs Road on the left. The first, coming from Murfreesboro, is River Road, which has already been described as lying between the Richard W. Wade and Mordici



Wade property.

The Shacklett Road was known at one time as Miles Road because the only places located there were those of the Miles families and their servants. It was called by this name for many years, even after other homes were established. Later it was called Two-Mile Road, being two miles in length. More recently, when the County did some work on the road, it got its present name. The road lies between the Mordici Wade and Joseph Bowman property, as it was once known. The Mordici Wade will states his land was bound on the west by "James Mayberry, C. M. Miles and others".

The Mayberry and Hill families were closely related, both families lived at the same location for several years. It was known by some as the Mary Jane Hill place. This was the only place in the community where water was known to have been obtained from an old open well, drawn by a well sweep.

Today on the Mordici Wade property, with frontage on Shacklett Road, are a number of houses and trailer homes. The Byrd family and the Toombs families live here, to name a few.

The Bowman property is best known as the George Tomberlain place. The old house burned several years ago. Mr. Tomberlain bought the place from the Thompkins heirs. It was owned at one time by James and Viola Thompkins. Mrs. Tompkins was the daughter of John Bowman, grand daughter of Joseph Bowman. As with so many places, the land has been divided into smaller tracts on which new houses are being erected. Down the Shacklett Road from the Tomberlain place is the home of Mrs. Virgie Puckett Mayfield, also on Bowman Property. The Joseph Bowman land joined the Miles land on the west.

The A. C. Shacklett farm will be remembered by many as the Cas Miles





place, which he inherited from his father, Caswell M. Miles, Sr. Mr. and Mrs. Shacklett lived there a number of years. Mr. Shacklett operated a dairy

The Russworm place, as it was known by the earlier settlers, joined the Miles-Shacklett farm on the north. It also belonged to Mr. Cas Miles, Sr. The Russworm family was living on the Lebanon Road, where Murfreesboro Airport is located, during the years of the Civil War. While the menfolk

were in service the mother and daughters were living alone. They had many unhappy experiences. The Yankees destroyed their property, broke into their house and ate their food. One of the Russworm daughters, Laura (later Mrs. Riley Marlin), was digging potatoes one day when a Yankee soldier came to pilfer and plunder. Laura ordered the soldier to leave and when he did not, she shot him. He took her gun and returned to the camp to report the shooting. Mrs. Russworm went to the camp and talked to the Provost marshal. He made the soldier return the gun and told Mrs. Russworm if the soldiers annoyed them again to shoot them, they had no right to steal food.

Finally the situation became such that Mr. Caswell Miles, Sr. moved the Russworm family to a house on his place for protection. Mrs. Russworm was Mrs. Miles' mother. The property spoken of so often as Russworm property was bound on the north by Elder and Sanders, east by Sanders and Miles, south by C. M. Miles, and on the west by the road. The house was built of logs. There were two rooms and an open hall, with a stairway leading from the hall to the upstairs rooms.

It was later known as the Bell place. Mr. Bell married Sara Miles, daughter of Cas Miles, Sr. She inherited the property from her father's





The T. A. Stockard Home—Constructed prior to 1816.



Home of the late Z. T. Dismukes—Circa 1840.



Bethel Methodist Church



Tombelrain Grocery—Owner Ernest Tombelrain on porch.



Zion Hill—Baptist Church on Swamp Road



Bethel School—Now closed.







The Seward Home--From left: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Seward, Maggie Seward Culbertson, and James T. Seward.



Bowman Home (Land Grant 1801) - Mr. and Mrs. James Tompkins.



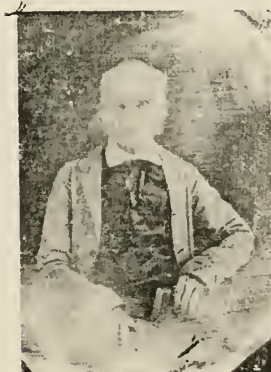
Ward's Mill (circa 1880).



Mill House - Mr. and Mrs. Lassiter, own and operate mill.



Julius C. Wade House (circa 1870) - Emma Collier on porch, center.



Ebenezer Macgovan (1767-1850)



estate. They sold to Mr. O.C. Alley, who sold to Jacob Robinson. The Robinson heirs sold to Buddy and Riggs Norris. Mr. Clyde Hall purchased the land from the Norris brothers. It changed hands a couple or more times and today it is Joneswood Estates, another of the housing projects being developed in the community. Originally it was land given to Mary Elliott by her mother, Deborah Elliott, as a part of the Elliott estate.

Next to this property, on land that belonged to George and Amanda Elder, is the trailer home of Willie Ike Victory, and the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Parker, on the corner of Shacklett and Sulphur Springs Road. Tom and Anna Woods lived here at one time and operated a saw mill. All of the land at this point on Sulphur Springs Road south to Stones River was Elliott property, as shown by maps and legal papers.

The home of Caswell Miles, Sr. was across the road and southwest of the Russworm place. It extended to the river on the south and west and was bound on the north by Z. T. Dismukes.

The Miles house has been described as a stately old house, with traditional charm. A beautiful wedding was solemnized here, that of Almyra Miles, daughter of Caswell M. Miles, Sr. and Sara Russworm Miles and Thomas Alonzo Stockird, son of James E. and Lucy MacGowan Stockird. It was attended by a large assemblage of relatives and friends. Following the ceremony a wedding supper was given at the home of the bride's parents. The next evening another huge wedding supper was enjoyed at the home of the groom's parents. People from miles around were invited. Both occasions were remembered for years by those who were present, and by those to whom the incidents were related years later. No doubt planning and pre-





paring these affairs involved many people.

The old Miles house burned. It was replaced by another but smaller house. In 1906 the land was purchased by Mr. Harding Hays. The family moved to the place on February 14, 1907. In 1925 Mr. Hays built an attractive brick house on the property. Today it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reece Hays. Reece has acquired acreage adjacent to that owned by his father, namely the Louis Miles property and the Hilliary Elder property, the latter a part of the land owned by George and Amanda Elder. Mr. and Mrs. Hay's son, Bobby, and his family live on adjoining farms.

Land on this side of Shacklett Road from Sulphur Springs Road south to the river was also originally Elliott property. It was part of a large body of land owned by James Elliott at the time of his death, and was part of a grant to William Elliott from the state of North Carolina. It was conveyed to James Elliott about the year 1820.

Other families have called this community "home". Although all of the homes past or present have not been listed, we trust a fair picture of the area has been given by naming some of the citizens of today to help establish the location of homes of some of the early settlers, who chose the little community of Bear Wallow and helped develop it into the present-day Bethel-Leana community.

Information on the early families has been obtained through research and material furnished by individuals. On the Wade families and lands they owned, help was given by Mr. D.W. Thompson, F. B. Arms, Mrs. Howard Primm, John T. Allen, Mrs. Florence Walkup Brown, Mrs. Robert S. Edwards and Russ Stockard, the last two named being descendants of the Wade family; Joseph Bowman, legal papers and from E. C. Tomberlain;



Russworm family, Russ Stockard, Milton Stockard, Russworm descendants, and Mrs. William Walkup, wife of another descendant; MacGowan and Elliott, family records, and legal information furnished by Reece Hays, who lives on Elliott land; Joseph Lindsey, through legal papers.

Following is a short biography of a few of the earliest settlers, we were able to obtain, a descendant, and a prominent citizen for a few months:

#### JOSEPH LINDSEY.

Joseph Lindsey was born April 4, 1804. His parents, Caleb and Temperance Lindsey, were born in Granville County, North Carolina. It is not known just when the family came to Rutherford County, but they are known to have been here by 1838 and thought to have been here earlier.

He became a minister in the Methodist Church in 1825. His work as a minister received favorable comment in the writings of John B. McFerrin. In 1850 he was made County Judge, which office he held for 17 years, the longest period of time anyone has served as Judge in Rutherford County. He was held in high esteem as attested by his active participation in county and community affairs.

In his will he mentioned his sisters, Fanny and Temperance, his brothers, Caleb and Dudley H. Lindsey, nieces and nephews. He also mentioned his wife but gave no name.

Joseph Lindsey died October 18, 1869 and was laid to rest in the family cemetery, with his parents and other members of his family. According to the inscription on his tombstone, his last words were "I know my Redeemer liveth". Another inscription said, "He died very happy. His



death chamber was filled with heavenly light."

## EBENEZER MACGOWAN

Another early settler who was to influence the history of Rutherford County was Ebenezer MacGowan. He was born in London, England, February 17, 1767, the son of John and Mary Harper MacGowan, and grandson of James and Elizabeth Stainforth MacGowan. His father was a noted preacher, writer, and close friend of John Wesley.

Ebenezer was 13 years old when his father died in 1780. Four years later he immigrated to the United States, and settled in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, where he married Sally Stell in 1786. They had three children: John, James, and Elizabeth. Sally died in 1793. He moved to St. Tamany's in Mecklenberg County, VA., where he married Frances Baugh, on July 22, 1797. They had five children, William Baugh, Samuel Goode, Thomas Harper, Martha Ann, and Lucy B.

He was ordained deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church on March 10, 1798, as evidenced by an old parchment signed by Bishop Francis Asbury.

In 1816 he and his family left Virginia and came to Tennessee, traveling in ox carts over the mountains and rough terrain--as did many of the early settlers who came to this new land while the forests were still dense, there were few roads and the ox cart was a prevailing mode of transportation. He came to Rutherford County and settled in a small wilderness community, northwest of Murfreesboro, known as Bear Wallow.

He was ordained elder in Columbia, Tennessee, November 28, 1824, by Bishop Joshua Soule. He was one of the earliest ministers in Rutherford County.

Ebenezer MacGowan died April 30, 1850, at the age of 83, and is



buried in the garden at his old home. Quoting from the history of John B. McFerrin, "He lived to an advanced age, and was a man of fine learning. He has gone to rest and left the savor of a good name."

He was a man of strong convictions, and firm in his beliefs. His granddaughter often recalled an incident in her childhood. Her mother had made a new dress for her which she was planning to wear to church on a Sunday morning, with great pride. Pre-shrunk materials were not yet on the market so her mother put a five or six inch hem in the skirt, which came almost to the ankles. When her grandfather saw her in her new dress, he immediately picked her up and stood her on the staircase while he took his pocket knife and ripped out the hem, saying in a disgruntled tone that no granddaughter of his was going to disgrace herself by wearing a dress that short. One cannot help but wonder what his reactions would be to the prevailing styles of the present age.

#### JOHN WADE, SR.

John Wade, Sr., son of John Edgar and Abigail Brawner Wade, was born in 1760 in Fredrick County, Maryland. He had 2 sisters, Elizabeth and Ann, 3 brothers, James, William, and Jesse.

John Wade, as did his father, fought in the Revolutionary War. He enlisted as a private under Captain John Reynolds in Fredrick County, Maryland, July 18, 1776, re-enlisted May 5, 1778. He served during the War in Captain Bernard Hubley's Co., under Lt. Col. Ludwig Welner, German Batallion, Continental Troops. His name appears in Register 1783, and on a similar list November 2, 1784.

He was married in 1781 in Montgomery Co., Maryland to Elizabeth

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Offutt, who was born in Maryland. They had 13 children:

1. Mordecai Burgess, b. 4-28-1800, d. 10-30-1886, m. Martha A. Campbell, b. 7-5-1818, d. 9-10-1863.
2. Eliza, b. 1803, d. 1840, m. William Snell who died 11-1-1836
3. Elizabeth, b. 1-8-1804, d. 10-21-1886, m. 7-15-1825 to Ed Alexander Cochran.
4. John M., b. 1805, d. 1886, m. Harriett Calhoun, 12-21-1826. She was born 1808, died 1887.
5. Richard William, b. 4-1811, d. 1-3-1880, m. Narcissa Frances Neal, 4-10-1844. She was born 12-26-1824, d. 12-18-1905.
6. Annie, b. 11-11-1817; married Billy Timmons
7. Martha, b. 7-21-1821, m. Robert Bumpass.
8. Mehaley or Mahala, b. 3-27-1823, married Elisha B. Vaughn.
9. Jane, b. 11-4-1824, married Isaac Brown.
10. Henry C. (bachelor) d. Sept. 6, 1882, no birth date given
11. Lucinda, b. 1-8-32, married Randolph Johns.
12. Sally, married 1. John Sperry, 2 John Wade (her first cousin).
13. Catherine (Kitty), married Osias Wade (first cousin).

Six of these were confirmed in the will of John Wade, Sr..

Sometime prior to 1820 John and two of his brothers, William and James, with their families, immigrated to Tennessee. John and William settled in the northwest section of Rutherford County, in what is now Bethel-Leana Community.

John Wade, Sr. was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Sulphur Springs. He was a highly respected citizen and a man of integrity. He had an eminent ancestry. Four generations back, Zachory Wade, born in 1627, died 1677, and his wife, Mary Hatton, who died in 1678, came as immigrants to Maryland from Warwickshire, England. He was an extensive land owner,



and a donor of land upon which Washington, D. C. is located.

There is a monument in Washington, D. C. , on 15th Street, between Constitution Ave. and East Street, erected by the National Daughters of American Colonists, April 25, 1936. It bears the following inscription, "To the original potentees prior to 1700 whose land grants embrace the site of the Federal City." The name of Zachory Wade is among those listed, followed by the date 1670.

John Wade, Sr. died in 1840, his wife, Elizabeth, died in 1835 in Rutherford County. A number of his descendants still live in Rutherford County, some in the community where their ancestors settled so many years ago.

#### JAMES E. STOCKIRD

James E. Stockird was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, September 9, 1817, son of William Alonzo and Jane (Elliott) Stockird who were natives of North Carolina. The father settled in this county in 1809. He was an energetic and successful farmer, and lived a long and useful life. He was a Whig in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. He served a number of years in the Indian War. His death occurred in 1876. James E. was reared by his grandmother, Debroah Elliott. He grew up on a farm and secured a limited education. At the age of eighteen he served an apprenticeship in mechanics and engaged in making cotton gins, a business he followed for sixteen years.

On February 17, 1842 he married Lucy B. MacGowan, daughter of Ebenezer MacGowan, a prominent Methodist Episcopal minister. To Mr. and Mrs. Stockird were born eight children: Frances Jane, who married Drury Josiah Sanders; William Elliott, married Lockie Russworm; Mary

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Ann died young; Martha Caroline, married James W. Hunt; James Edwin Jr., never married; Alice Elvira, married Thomas Gentry Miles; Nancy Fletcher, never married; Thomas Alonzo, who married Almyra Miles.

Mrs. Stockird died April 23, 1866, and in 1869 Mr. Stockird married Mary Leonora Russworm, daughter of John S. and Sallie Martin Russworm. They had four children; Samuel Russworm, married Emma James; Rosalind Deborah, Mrs. W. I. Gresham; John Elliott, married Georgia Ambrose; Virginia Leonora, never married.

Mr. Stockird did not take an active part in the Civil War, but sympathized with the Southern cause. He was a Democrat, and a squire of the ninth District for twenty years. He and his family were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where they were active in church affairs.

## JOHN BOWMAN

Most of the following article is from the Journal of B. L. Ridley:

"I had an experience with John Bowman in 1864 that showed his recklessness and want of fear. While Hood was environing Nashville and Forrest was dashing upon Murfreesboro, seventy-five "Yanks" had been in a block-house near Smyrna depot, guarding the railroad between Nashville and Murfreesboro. Things were getting so "squally" that they left their fortress at Murfreesboro. Four Rebs had slipped through from Hood's army to see homefolks, John Bowman among them. They looked up the pike and saw it black with blue coats. The idea naturally was that they were so badly frightened a shot or two would stampede them, and that we would at least get their wagons and teams. Knowing every pig path, they rushed through the cedars and ensconced themselves in a thicket on Searcy's



farm alongside of the old road. As the seventy-five marched along, each Reb on his horse drew his Navy and fired. Did they run? Well, never in the wide world. I can hear that Yankee officer now cry, "Halt! Right Wheel! Fire!

They peeled the saplings, made shot holes through our clothes and saddles; it looked like the demons had turned loose upon us, and it seemed that they would kill us in spite of fate. We got over the hill after a time; they did not pursue-nor did we. Bowman wanted to go back and attack again, but the rest of us demurred. We dubbed that battle "Hardup," for if there was ever a hard time getting out of a thicket, that was one. Did we get wagons? No, did not want them. Capture, "Yanks?" No, we were glad enough to save our scalps. It was John Bowman's recklessness that induced four of us to attack seventy-five! One of the young men, only fourteen at that time, (Dr. G.W. Crosthwait, of Florence, Tennessee, and who received only this baptism of fire during the great war) often now speaks of the battle of "Hardup" as one which ought to be recorded." (Dr. Crosthwait lived in an adjoining community but was well-known in the Bethel-Leana area, where he had many friends, and often administered to the needs of those who were ill.)

John Bowman was not always as fortunate as in the battle of "Hardup", as further related by Mr. Ridley. "John Bowman, a member of Colonel Paul Anderson's Calvary, was cut off in Hood's retreat and took shelter near Murfreesboro, his home. They caught him about midway between Murfreesboro and Lebanon, and tied him to a tree. Instead of begging for his life, he defied and heaped epithets upon his captors until they, in frenzied rage, riddled his body with bullets."





James E. Stockird, with a helper, carried a wagon and brought John Bowman's body back to the community where he had spent all of his life, except the time he was in service. He was buried in the MacGowan-Stockird Cemetery.

His father, John Bowman, son of Joseph Bowman, was himself a soldier, having fought a battle of another kind. He was both deaf and dumb. The story is told that each time a child was born into his home he would use an ax, or other heavy instrument, and strike the floor to see if the child was deaf or dumb, so great was his fear that one of his children might have to suffer from the same affliction as he had for all of his life.

Many of the young men in this community have gone into combat in other wars. Most of them came back but a few gave their lives for their country. Charlie Fann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Houston Fann, was reported missing in action in World War II, but was later found. He was identified by the high school class ring on his finger. He was given a hero's burial in Arlington Cemetery. David Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. David W. Thompson, was also reported missing in World War II but his body was never recovered. We are proud of the boys of the community who have served in any war in which our country has been involved. The memory of those who gave their lives is indelibly imprinted on our hearts and our minds.

#### SOON CHIAOCHUN

A Chinese native resided in this community for a brief time. Soon Chiao-chun had come from Trinity college, now Duke University, Durham,

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N.C., to Vanderbilt University to further pursue his studies in American colleges. It was the summer of 1885 that James E. Stockird, a trustee of the University at Nashville, learned about Charles Jones Soon, the baptismal name Soon had given himself after becoming converted in North Carolina.

Mr. Stockird became interested in the Chinese boy and invited him to spend the summer with he and his family-at the old MacGowan house, then the home of the Stockird family. Charlie Soon, as he was called here, spent two summers in the Stockird home, enjoying fishing, and all of the activities in which the young people of the community participated. Upon completion of his studies at Vanderbilt, he returned to North Carolina.

He left many memories of his visit. He gave to Sally Marlin, a niece of the Stockirds, a picture of himself, which is preserved in a volume on the Chiangs of China. One corner is slightly burned where, according to legend, Sally threw it in the fire when she was teased about it. As the stories go, Sally had to take more than her share of teasing. He gave to Mrs. Stockird, his hostess, a gold ring with his initials engraved on the inner side. It was later used in making a cameo, which no doubt, is still preserved in the family.

He remained in North Carolina two years doing missionary work. Later he returned to his native land. He added a "g" to his name and became a leader in religious and political affairs. Shortly after his return to China, he married Miss Ni Kweitseng. One of their three daughters is Madame Chiang KiaShek, a nationally known figure.



## CHURCHES

After Ebenezer MacGowan built a home for his family and quarters for his slaves, his next concern was a place for the people of the community to worship. He began holding services in his home. Being small of stature, he stood on the stairway and preached to the people who gathered from time to time to worship God, to thank Him for safe arrival in the new country, and to ask His guidance in their daily lives and in their efforts to establish homes and develop the wilderness territory.

As the community grew, there was need for a larger place of worship. Mr. MacGowan gave a little grove, containing four acres of land, across the road and a few hundred yards southeast of his home. He donated the cedar logs and helped in the construction of a little church, nestled in the recesses of the grove, deep within the wilderness of the newly settled country. He called the church Bethel. It was the first church in the new community, which he called Bethel Community. It was no longer known as Bear Wallow community. The church stood back of where the Methodist Parsonage now stands.

Some people believe the church was erected in 1827, but according to the family history given by his descendants, who have information from MacGowan's own lips, it was erected in 1818. Bethel was put on Stones River Circuit, where it remained until it became a station.

Rev. MacGowan was Bethel's first pastor. He had become a minister in Virginia, where he was ordained deacon in the Methodist church on March 10, 1798 by Bishop Francis Asbury. He was ordained Elder by Bishop Joshua Soule, Nov. 23, 1824, in Columbia, Tennessee. A great grandson has in his possession the original certificates, which are on parchment.



Photostatic copies were placed in the sanctuary at Bethel by another great grandson, who also has photostatic copies of the certificates in his possession.

According to Ebenezer MacGowan's will, probated May 1850, he devised to the trustees of the church, John Lane, Joseph Lindsey, John Jones, Captain William Smith, James E. Stockird, and their successors in office, according to the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) "that part of my land where-on Bethel Meeting House stands."

Among family names not mentioned above, but found in the church record which dated back to 1830 are: Adams, Allen, Arthur, Atkinson, Batey, Bowman, Gentry, Hunt, Lewis, Macon, Robb, Rooker, Ross, Rowlette, Russworm, Thompsons, Wade, and Ward.

Records show there was a Sunday School at Bethel as early as 1878. A Sunday School quarterly for that year has been found.

In 1887 a new church was built, and the old church became Bethel school. The new church was described as a frame structure 30 ft. x 50 ft with a seating capacity of 300-350. The church was dedicated the first Sunday in September 1887.

Bethel Church still stands but the house in which it was founded has been torn down. It stood so majestically for many years, as if watching the growth of the church it nurtured, and the development of the community from rugged trails and ox carts to paved roads and modern modes of travel; from the log cabin homes to attractive modern structures. In memory the old house still stands as a monument to posterity.

From the History of Bethel Church compiled in  
1962 by Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Sanders

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## NEW SCHOOL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The following is from a deed on record in Rutherford County Court-house: "Know all men by these presents that I, Wilson L. Watkins of the County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee for the purpose of promoting the cause of christianity, and for the consideration of one dollar to me in hand paid by Walter Wade, Samuel McFadden and Addison Mitchell of the same county and state, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have this day sold, transferred and conveyed unto the said Walter Wade, Samuel McFadden, and Addison Mitchell as trustees, for the use and benefit of the new School Presbyterian Church at the Sulphur Spring in the said county of Rutherford, and their successors in office, the following described tract of land. --with erections and improvements thereon, and bounded as follows: beginning at a stake my southwest corner, thence east to a stake, thence north to a stake, thence west to a stake in William Mitchell's east boundary line thence south to the beginning; containing by estimation one and three fourth acres, be the same more or less. ---given under my hand this 28 day of Nov., 1843. Registered Nov. 29, 1843. Deed Book i, page 404. Evidently the church was located near the Presbyterian Campground. Little else is known about the church except that it was thought to have been destroyed during the Civil War. Nothing definite has been learned about its pastors or its membership. There was probably a large membership at the time it was organized.

## LEANA CHURCH OF CHRIST

It was a long way from the old ramshackle Bethel School building, with its rickety benches and broken window panes, to the modern brick



structure which now houses the members of Leana Church of Christ, but the distance was covered in less than ten years and the spirit of love, cooperation and desire for progress which permeated the small group who organized the work, still is a noticeable characteristic of the church today.

It was June 1947, the second Sunday to be exact, when five families held the first service in the old schoolhouse. Church records show the charter members were: C.C. Barrett, Houston Fann, Joe Brewer, Hobart Reed, S. D. Wrather and members of their respective families.

Early in the next year the group, still small in number, purchased an old storehouse close by and, after a few repairs, worshipped there first in March of 1948. All the early work of the church was under the oversight of the Westvue Church of Christ. W.E. Watts, one of the elders of the Westvue church, was more directly responsible for the teaching program during the first two years and the congregation enjoyed remarkable growth and spiritual prosperity during the period. C.S. Locke was minister of the church from 1949 through 1952.

Early in 1953 elders and deacons were appointed. They were; M.F. Allen and Joe Brewer, elders; Cleveland Wrather and Ray Bullock, deacons.

Through the more than ten years since the congregation was established almost forty guest ministers filled the pulpit at one time or another.

Mason Tucker became minister in 1952. During the past five years the church has more than doubled in size and contributions. In 1955 a new \$15,000 meetinghouse was completed. The building was designed and built by one of the members, R. A. Patrick. The structure seats 175 in the main auditorium. Four classrooms, when opened, increase seating capacity to



350. An overflow audience of 450 attended the first service held in the building.

In 1961 two Sunday School rooms and a baptistery were added; and in 1970 a central heating and air conditioning system. Five more classrooms were built in 1972, and the floors were carpeted. Today it is a beautiful edifice, in which a large congregation worships.

Some who have served as church secretary are Joe Brewer, Charles Bullock, John Bowman, and Lee Brewer, as treasurer, and William Neal.

Those who have served the church as pastor, in addition to C. S. Locke and Mason Tucker, are Clifford Brothers, James Ryan, Marvin Brothers, and Maurice Thomason, present pastor.

(Information obtained from Mrs. Howard Primm, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bullock).

#### ZION HILL INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

Another attractive church in the community is the Zion Hill Independent Baptist Church, on Swamp road a few hundred yards from Sulphur Springs Road. It was organized by David Eubanks, at Lascassas. Bro. Eubanks was the first pastor.

For about six months services were held in the Russ Stockard house, where the Max Carter family lives. The congregation worshipped here until the church was built. Jim Hunter was first Sunday School Superintendent. Others who have served in this capacity are David Ross, Danny Flick, and John Good.

The deacons are Kelly Ross, Jim Ormes, Leonard Barrett, Howard Hunter, and Walter Westover. The first clerk was Mrs. Billie Singleton.



followed by Mrs. Ruth Good.

Pastors who have served the church are David Eubanks, Kenneth Armstrong, Bill Shaw, Bill Woodward of Nashville, is on call.

Average attendance at church services is about 150, at Sunday School about 70. The church has a thriving congregation doing a great work in the service of the Lord.

(Information given by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Ross.)

Mt. View, a colored church, stood west of Mrs. Mahaffey's house on Central Valley Road, just back of Mrs. Charlie Wrather's farm. It is known to have existed in the 1900's but closed for many years and the building torn down. It is remembered as being a Baptist church. McVeigh's Chapel, also a colored church, was located on the sulphur Springs Road, opposite Alford Road, where Mrs. Tom and Mrs. Bea Arms live. It was regarded by both black and white as a respectable church. The land was given by Mr. Jim Moore. The deed was made to Alex McVeigh and elders of the church and their successors in office for as long as it continued to be a church. Alex McVeigh was a preacher, and probably at some time pastor of the church. McVeigh's Chapel was in existence for several years..

A story is told about a wedding that was solemnized at McVeigh's Chapel. The mother of the groom wanted some of "her white folk" to attend her son's wedding, which they did. It was a pretty wedding and a large crowd was in attendance. The bride and groom faced the congregation for the ceremony, instead of facing the preacher. At the close of the ceremony the preacher pronounced them a man and wife and said to the groom, "Now, you can kiss the bride." After a moment's hesitation the groom





looked up at the preacher and said, "Sposin you kiss 'er fust."

John's Hall This church was east of the Hoyte Sanford place, just outside the community boundary, but people from this community attended church there and buried their people in the cemetery back of the church.

Antioch, a missionary Baptist church, was organized in the late 1800's, and is still in existence. It is on the Joe Brown Road.

These churches are known to have been in existence, but the time of organization cannot be definitely established.



## S C H O O L S

The first school known to have been in what is now Bethel Community was the Elliott School, so called because it was on the Elliott property. The old Elliott home stood a few hundred yards northwest of the school. Little is known about this school except that it was a log building, with a chimney at one end. Foundation rock can still be found where the building stood. Signs of an old road having been near the school are still visible. Peyton Randolph and J. E. Stockard are among those who attended this school. Older settlers think Nellie Elliott was a teacher there.

The exact date of the next school in the community cannot be obtained, either. After Ebenezer MacGowan built his home and had founded Bethel Church, a school house was built two or three hundred yards southeast of the church. Since it was on MacGowan property, it is thought he probably gave the land, furnished some of the building material and helped build the first Bethel school.

In style it was a typical early American building, similar to the church nearby. It was built of logs cleared from the wilderness, hewn by hand and put together with pens. The roof was ribbed poles, to which crude but substantial boards were nailed, with cut nails. It was a small building, about 18 x 20 feet, with puncheon floor. Light was furnished from a door in the front and a few small square windows. There was a fireplace at the south end of the building. The chimney had a rock base. Above the coping it was made of sticks and mud. The seats were split logs supported by pegs. They had no backs. Water was obtained from a hand dug well nearby. The school-



house was separated from surrounding property by a rail fence.

The building was in a low swampy place. Sometimes, when heavy rains came, the water was so deep someone would have to build a raft and row across the water to get books and other articles needed, or carry the teachers and children to and from school. Sometimes classes would have to be held in the church building.

Playground equipment in those early days consisted of a grape vine jumping rope, that had to be replaced about every week; grape vine swings; homemade seesaws, usually a pole placed across a stump. The side of a ditch by one of the early roads was used for slides. Two poles, with limbs cut to hold a cross pole, provided equipment for high jumping.

Some of the teachers in the first Bethel school were Petty Henderson, a blind man, Al McClain, and Mary McQuilkin... from Pennsylvania. Evidently Miss McQuilkin taught at Bethel a number of years. A register of the early eighties gave names of great grand children of the early settlers.

Mrs. Mamie Adams, who lived in Donelson for a number of years, had many memories of "Old Bethel School". It was here that she started to school, and where she attended with her sisters, Fannie and Martha. Her first teacher was Miss McQuilkin whom she described as "a fussy old maid, lank and skinny, and all the kids were afraid of her". Mrs. Adams also recalled the most embarrassing experience of her young life, her first whipping at school. She got the whipping because she couldn't pronounce a certain word but somehow, after Jim Mullins went out and got a switch and Miss McQuilkin "tickled her little bare legs with it" she could pronounce the word. Her brother thought it was a funny joke to tell about



her whipping every time they had visitors. She would always go upstairs and stay until the visitors left.

Other teachers she remembered were Miss Vinnie Burton, "She stayed several years and was loved by all the children"; Miss Alice Bruger and old professor Miller, an old man with white beard. Her outstanding memory of him was the time he threw a book at Martha James because she couldn't spell a certain word.

In memory she saw "that old gully", as it was called. When the children went out on the playground they were charged to be careful and not get too far back in the hollow for there was quicksand in the hollow "that would swallow you up".

School was held in the church building much of the time during the years of 1885-1886 because of the poor condition of the schoolhouse. In 1887 when the new church was erected the first Bethel church was deeded to Rutherford County by the Quarterly Conference of Stones River Circuit, and the first Bethel Church building became the second Bethel school building. Papers pertaining to this transaction, and other material about Bethel School are in the hands of a descendent of some of the early settlers in the community. In those early days there were School Commissioners. This method of choosing teachers was used until the present plan was enacted. The first commissioners of the school district were David Massey and Jimmie Stockird; later came Z. T. Dismukes and Bud Mullins; still later, C. M. Miles and T. A. Stockird were commissioners.

Mr. George Tomberlain remembered the first Bethel school building, although he attended school in the second building. His first teacher at





Bethel was Miss Ola Marlin. He remembered how attendance would fluctuate and at intervals during the year two teachers would be teaching in one room.

In the fall of 1905 a room was added on the south of the one-room log building. The first principal in the two-room school was Moore Andrews, with Nora Stockard assistant. For years the old wood stove used in the first church, a 36x24x18 inch ironside, was used in the second school building but by now the pot-bellied stove with an added air drum was also used. When the second Bethel school came into being, a well was dug north of the building. In 1915 a well was dug west of the school. In 1915 a porch was added on the west side of the building. In this year, also, a stage was built in the north room, on the north end. Sometime between 1921 and 1924 accordion doors were put between the two rooms, and about this time or probably a little later more and larger windows were put on the east side of the building. Another memory of the two-teacher school, the Friday afternoon programs when the parents were invited to see the children "perform".

Bethel became a three-teacher school in 1925. A new room was added on the northwest corner of the original log room. The teachers were Mrs. Earl Roberts, Mary Hall and Lavada Bowling. It remained a three-teacher school for a few years, then became a two-teacher school again. In 1926 Bethel had its first school bus, driven by Mr. Lum Gannon. Other drivers for the school were Ernest Adams, Howard Whitley, and Ernest Tomberlain. A lunch room was added in 1936. Cooks in the first kitchen were Mrs. Tom Arms and Mrs. Bea Arms. They continued as the cooks as long as the



school existed.

Interested citizens, because of the regard they had for their community, worked earnestly and faithfully for a new school building. It was due to their untiring efforts that in 1950 a new school building was erected across the road from the second Bethel school, a part of which had stood for 132 years and had been used for a school building for 63 years.

The new building was cherished by those who loved Bethel Community and wanted the school to continue to function as one of the important links in the life of the community. The new building was an attractive three-room block structure, built in modern style, with the use of modern building equipment. It was floored in hardwood, heated by gas, lighted by electricity and with light from spacious windows that was controlled by venetian blinds -- Quite a contrast from the earlier buildings. The students studied at comfortable desks, with many kinds of materials to make the preparation of their lessons easier and more interesting.

When the building was completed, visitors from all over the state came to look over the structure, as it was considered a model plan for other rural schools. The first teachers in the new building were Mrs. Ray Donnell, Mrs. Robert Lane, and Miss Ann Swain.

At the time school work was started in the new building there was practically no extra equipment, but the school and community club went to work immediately and obtained several pieces of playground equipment, a piono, water cooler, a 24 foot deep freeze, radios, record player, record collection, film strips, book cases, and cabinets, science equipment, two television sets, and installed a public address system. All of this was done in a remarkably



short period of time which further indicated interest in the school. Bethel was chosen from the schools of the county for a one week dental flouridation clinic, sponsored by the State Board of Education. The school received recognition in a nationally known magazine. It also participated in the eye-testing clinics, sponsored by the Lions Club. Bethel was also a participant in the Blue Ribbon Health Program.

The school had an active 4-H Club and rated in the blue ribbon group most of the time. Local winners in county-wide contests did outstanding work. Bethel Community Club held its meeting in the building and worked closely with the school. Each year they sponsored, jointly, a community club and school picnic and planned projects for use of the proceeds that would be beneficial to both but keeping the needs of the school especially in mind. There was also a Bethel Home Demonstration Club which made contributions to the school.

Bethel was always an elementary school, but its graduates who have attended high school and college have carried the colors well and have own outstanding achievements. From the time of the first log building, around which clusters many memories, girls and boys have gone out from Bethel to become successful citizens and worthy representatives of Bethel school and community.

A complete list of teachers cannot be obtained but others in addition to those already mentioned are: Mary Knott, Edith Littler, Ada Ewing Wendell, Mrs. Myrtle Johns, George Rice, T. A. Jamison, Louise Gill, Ora Mai Ball, Gertrude Vaughn, Ollie Mai Overall, H. E. Baker, Ella Tarpley, Herbert Well Anna Stockard, Alice Rooker, Gordon Davis, Elizabeth Smith, Bessie Seward,



Delay, Mary Elizabeth Blankenship, Mary Kelton, Maggie Lee Knox, Gladys Jones, Clara Harris, Kathleen Harris, Estelle Tilford, Mrs. B. Brandon, Mrs. Mark Womack, Kate Ashley, Annell Smith, Ruth Allen, Bessie Baskette, Sallie Dement, Mrs. T.G. Harris, Mr. Russell, Mrs. Putman, Mrs. Mamie Youree, Mrs. Pauline Atkerson, Mrs. J.D. Roberts, Mrs. Azilee Moore, Mrs. Charles Tilford, Mrs. Sue Clift, William Key, R.D. Barrett, Mrs. Drayer, Jimmie Tune, Mrs. Emmett Wood, Mrs. Fannie Murphy, Mrs. William Money, Mrs. Simon Glanton, Mrs. Levoy Bivins, Mrs. Pack Barrett, Richard Tune, Sonya Sample. The teachers names are not listed in the order of their service, nor the teachers with whom others taught because complete information is not available. Every effort was made to get a complete list of the teachers who taught at Bethel down through the years, but this was a difficult task. Perhaps some who read this will think of other names that should be on the list.

Bethel school, like many other rural schools, was as a golden thread in a tapestry, interwoven in other historical events of the county. A direct outcome of the buildings of pioneer days, it was a development and a continuous part of the pattern from the beginning until its close. The struggles and accomplishments of the school closely parallels the progress of the community in its other respects. The community has grown from a tiny hamlet to typical rural area which continues to grow with many new homes already constructed and plans being made for further development.

Although it had been operated only on an elementary basis, Bethel School hardened and strengthened by the travail of its birth could have continued to be a living, pulsating, vibrant part of an expanding community, as an elementary





school, and met the needs of a progressive people had it been given the opportunity and the support and maintenance it needed. However, those not interested brought about its downfall. Although many new homes and two new churches have been added to Bethel Community, one important link has been destroyed, the neighborhood school which had a personal interest in its children, the citizens of the future who are being drawn from its boundaries. The Community Club meets within the confines of its walls, and it is used as a voting precinct, but the school that stood for more than 150 years has been destroyed. It was closed while maintaining an average attendance of 100 pupils.

One of the citizens of the community, Mrs. Evelyn Primm, when she was interviewed and give helpful information on different phases of the community history, summed it up so beautifully regarding Bethel School when she said: "There are no outstanding characters who went to school at Bethel, so far as I know, but I do know that no school in the county has contributed more to the welfare or betterment of a community, or provided any higher type citizens than our Bethel School".

The date of another school in the community, the old Sulphur Springs school, cannot be established. It was located in the eastern edge of Bethel Community, a few yards north of the present Sulphur Springs Road west of the present Siegel Road. Part of the building is still standing near the Irvin Bower place. Drinking water was carried from the old Sulphur Springs.

A teacher who is known to have taught there was George Rice. Among those known to have attended school at Sulphur Springs is J. D. Roberts, a former Register of Rutherford County. Before becoming Register, he bought large tracts of cedar for F and O Cedar Piling Company in Murfreesboro.



Others known to have attended this school are Arie Knox and other members of the Carroll Knox family, and Lucy and Jim Miles.

Later the school was taken over by the colored people and was in operation as late as 1915.

Another colored school in the community was Antioch School, located on what is now known as the Joe Brown road, near Antioch church. Some of the older settlers in this section of the community were Sam Payne, Joe Johnson, Mike Gooch, Phil Gooch, Liz Miller, Baldy Scruggs, Caroline Scruggs, Jack Huddleston, Sallie Huddleston, George Elder, Amanda Elder, Doc Miles, Henry Kimbro, Harry Ward, Ann Ward, Hosea Brown and Sally Brown. They were highly respected citizens of the community. Their children, grandchildren, and possibly some of their great grandchildren, attended school at Antioch. Among teachers who taught there were Annie Gooch, who later became Mrs. G. W. Hampton, and George Hampton.

#### OUTSTANDING EVENTS

March 28, 1902 all of the western section of Bethel-Leana community was flooded from torrential rains upstream on west fork of Stones River, which caused the river to rise at a rapid rate, so fast, in fact, the river crossed itself at least three times and flooded many homes. The flood of 1902 has been remembered and discussed by many people over the more than 70 years since it occurred.

A tornado came through this section in 1908, tearing up timber and a few small buildings. Ward's mill was piled up on the banks of Stones River.

One citizen remembers his grandfather making fishing poles from the



sap wood of cedar destroyed by the tornado. They made good poles and were used for years and years. After each fishing trip, the poles had to be greased with axle-grease, or something to make them pliant, so they would bend without splitting when used.

## STORES

The first store known to have been in the community was built by Billie Smith, sometime before the turn of the century. It stood just west of the house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dickerson. At his death the store was sold to Jim Burnette, who operated it for a number of years. Mr. Burnett built a new store across the road. The stock was sold to Frank White and later repossessed.

In 1919, Mr. Burnett sold to Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Cox, who operated the only grocery store in the community for a number of years, until Mr. Houston Fann opened a small store in the triangle across the road. After Mr. Cox's death, Mrs. Cox kept the store for a few years then sold to Mr. Fann. The store and its contents was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Fann again operated a store in the triangle, about where Tri-Way Market is located

Jim Burris, a black man, had a store about 1912-1914 on the southeast corner of what was then Miles and Sulphur Springs Road, now Shacklett and Sulphur Springs Road.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Jones had a store for a brief time, some time in the early 1920's. It was near where Mrs. Frank Clifton lives.

In 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Brandon King built a store across from Bethel School and sold it the same year to Mr. Evans, who operated it for awhile.



His brother was also operator of the store for awhile. Others operating this store were R. A. Patrick, Buford Hayes, and Ernest Tomberlain, who is the present owner.

### POSTOFFICE

For several years people of the community had to go to Florence Station to get their mail. Neighbors alternated days in bringing mail for the community.

About 1880 a Star Route was started from Florence. Mail was delivered to each farm occupant who furnished a box. The route in this community extended from the river up Sulphur Springs to present Swamp Road, thence to Central Valley Road. A star route carrier would also deliver mail to Walter Hill and Lascassas and return. Leana was on the return pickup. Mail was carried back to Florence and from there by train to its destination.

About this time a postoffice was established, called Leana. It was in Billie Smith's store. He was postmaster during the entire time the postoffice existed.

A Rural Route was started around 1901-02. It was route 7 out of Murfreesboro, later changed to route 4. Mail carriers were W.L. Millins, Charles H. Holmes, John E. Rooker, and Mrs. Roxie B. Jenkins, present carrier.

### COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

#### Gristmill:

A gristmill was operated on the community line between Bethel-Leana and Florence, on Stones River, where people from both communities carried corn and wheat to be ground. It was known as Jim Ward Mill. Mr. Ward





sold to Major Street, who transferred it to David and George Evans. They operated the mill for several years then sold to T. J. Lassiter. After operating the mill for a few years, Mr. Lassiter sold to J. E. Nice and son.

From this time on it was known as Nice's Mill, where feed, as well as corn and wheat, was ground. It became a landmark in the community. People have come from miles around to fish at Nice's mill. The mill was burned down in October 1965, but it continues to be a popular fishing spot. On the Bethel-Leana side a space has been paved for parking of cars and campers.

#### Sawmills:

First sawmill known about was operated by a Mr. Shaw, run by traction engine. Water to make steam was pumped from sinking creek. It was on the Sam Mitchell farm, near where the bridge on Thompson Lane crosses the creek. At this mill a man by the name of Nathaniel Allen, better known as Nat Allen, lost his life by being pulled into the saw by accident. This mill was moved to Manor Cave Spring in another community. As for other mills, it is not known how they came in order of service.

Mr. Knox Ridley owned a mill on the Cas Miles farm, almost in front of the A. C. Shacklett farm.

Amos Culbertson had a mill on part of the J. E. Stockird farm. Water for operation came from the blue hole or Bear Wallow. Jim Oliver and his sons operated a mill at the same location. Later Oliver bros. had a mill just south of the present Robert Lane Home. Water was pumped from Bethel pond, which at one time was a rather large body of water.

Charlie, Jesse, Thompson and Jimmy Ward also operated a sawmill on the J. E. Stockird farm. It was known as Ward Bros. sawmill.



### Blacksmith shops:

A blacksmith shop was owned and operated by T. A. Stockird, and was almost in front of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Dickerson's home, as we know it today. Mr. Robert Wrather moved into the community and operated a shop at the same location. He bought a small farm on the Swamp Road, across from where Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jenkins live, and moved his blacksmith shop there. He also had a repair shop for buggies, wagons, and carts. His son, Jesse, made hickory pipes for sale.

### Cotton Gins:

A cotton gin was built about 1870-75, operated by J. E. Stockird sons, and grandsons, with help of farm labor, and continued in operation until 1885. It stood about halfway between the homes of Tommy Reed and Charlie Ross, as we know the location today. The drum used at the gin was later converted into a well windless and is still in use.

For many years Bethel-Leana was largely a farming community but when industry came to Murfreesboro and Rutherford County many have forsaken the farms. Some of the farm land has been put in the Soil Bank; some sold to companies for the development of housing projects; other land has been allowed to grow up unattended while the owners answer the call to public works. The little community has come from North Carolina land grants of densely covered forest land to a prosperous community only a few miles from the heart of Tennessee.

On the west boundary of the community, a bridge spans the waters of Stones River, a bridge that has stood for many years. It met the needs of



the people when it was finally built 65 years ago and buggies and wagons were the vehicles used for travel. A citizen of the community remembers working on the approach to the bridge when he was 13 years old, and drove one of the first wagons to cross the bridge.

Today the narrow wooden bridge attached to the rickety frame work causes people to hold their breath or almost skip a heart beat when they start across the bridge for fear they will not reach the other side in safety. Some even avoid the road because a narrow and unsafe bridge does not meet the needs of a growing community. One wonders why the county will allow a community to continue using such a dangerous structure.

#### CEMETERIES

The early settlers who left their native land and chose this part of the country in which to make their homes were laid to rest beneath the soil of their chosen land, as were many of their descendants. Below are listed the cemeteries that could be located. So many of the graves are not marked, and some of the engraving is not legible:

I - Lindsey family cemetery, near the Lindsey home:

1. Caleb Lindsey
  - b. April 27, 1763, in County of Granville, N. C.
  - d. Dec. 25, 1838
2. Mrs. Temperance Lindsey, wife of Caleb Lindsey
  - b. April 1, 1781
  - d. Feb. 12, 1862
3. Rev. Joseph Lindsey
  - b. April 4, 1804
  - d. Oct. 28, 1869
4. Miss Sally Lindsey
  - b. Feb. 28, 1761, in Granville, N. C.
  - d. Oct. 10, 1841, age 81 years, 7 mo., and 12 days
5. Elizabeth, consort of C. D. Cooper
  - b. June 28, 1815, in Granville County, N. C.
  - d. June 25, 1839



6. Dudley House Lindsey
  - b. May 22, 1803
  - d. July 7, 1859
7. Daniel McKalister
  - b. Feb. 3, 1791
  - d. Aug. 28, 1851
8. Dr. W. Henderson Cooper
  - b. Dec. 23, 1836
  - d. July 10, 1866
9. Lewis Sims
  - b. unknown
  - d. unknown

## II. Slave graveyard of Joseph Lindsey, near the family plot

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Gabriel                    | 18. Ginney                      |
| 2. Solomen                    | 19. Sam                         |
| 3. Mat                        | 20. Eliza, her son              |
| 4. Caroline                   | 21. Govenor Fox                 |
| 5. Sally and her two children | 22. Joice                       |
| 6. Hagar                      | 23. Harriett                    |
| 7. Lucy                       | 24. Issa                        |
| 8. Bird                       | 25. Charlotte                   |
| 9. Bob                        | 26. Ellen, one of Nancy's twins |
| 10. Billy                     | 27. Texanna                     |
| 11. Tim(                      | 28. Peter                       |
| 12. Leane                     | 29. Catherine                   |
| 13. Siney                     | 30. Nancy                       |
| 14. Kit                       | 31. Cader                       |
| 15. Tim                       | 32. Granville                   |
| 16. Lige                      | 33. Allie                       |
| 17. Hanner                    |                                 |

Joseph Lindsey specified in his will that neither the family nor the slave graveyard was to be sold or molested in any way.

## III. Mitchell graveyard, on a knoll just east of Thompson Lane

1. William Mitchell
  - b. unknown
  - d. 1850
2. Wife of William Mitchell
  - b. July 3, 1773
  - d. April 7, 1828
3. Curry
  - b. 1735
  - d. 1835
4. Azariah Mitche]]
  - b. June 6, 1806
  - d. Oct. 22, 1855
5. Malenia Mitchell
  - b. June 6, 1800
  - d. Mar. 19, 1883





There are other markers in this cemetery but names and dates are not readable.

4. Wade cemetery, on Mordici Wade farm

1. Mordici Burgess Wade
  - b. April 28, 1800
  - d. Oct. 30, 1867
2. Martha A. Wade, his wife
  - b. July 5, 1818
  - d. Sept. 10, 1863

Children of Richard W. and Narcissa Neal Wade

1. Cora Ann Wade
  - b. June 15, 1845
  - d. Sept. 6, 1851
2. Alice Josephine Wade
  - b. June 12, 1847
  - d. Dec. 4, 1858
3. John Summerfield
  - b. April 13, 1850
  - d. Sept. 6, 1855
4. Child born and died March 30, 1856

5. Wade cemetery, on F. B. Arms farm

1. Col. William Wade
  - b. Jan. 1, 1763
  - d. July 31, 1849
2. Cassandra Wade, consort of Col. Wade
  - b. Jan. 18, 1769
  - d. Feb. 6, 1820
3. Caroline Watkins, dau. of Wm. and Cassandra Wade, Consort of W. L. Watkins
  - b. Aug. 22, 1812
  - d. Nove. 23, 1849
4. Caroline, infant dau. of Col. W.L. Watkins and Caroline W. Watkins
  - b. Nov. 12, 1849
  - d. July 31, 1850
5. John C. Wade
  - b. Aug. 20, 1788
  - d. Dec. 26, 1855
6. Ann Wade
  - b. 1788
  - d. Oct. 26, 1828
7. Robert O. Wade
  - b. April 13, 1823
  - d. June 27, 1844
8. William Wade, son of Col. Wm. Wade
  - b. Oct. 26, 1811
  - d. July 27, 1850
9. Col. W. L. Watkins
  - b. March 16, 1802, in Montgomery Co., Maryland
  - d. Nov. 15, 1861



10. Rebecca O. Miller
  - b. Nov. 10, 1802, in Maryland
  - d. Aug. 1, 1858
6. Wade slave graveyard, on Russ Stockard place  
Martin Wade is the only person buried there whose name is known.
7. Johns Hall, just outside the community line, back of Hoyte Sanford farm.
  1. Lucy Collier
  2. Ben Collier
  3. Joe Johns
  4. Bettie Lou Johns
  5. Harry Ward
  6. Ann Ward
  7. Milton Ward
  8. Alice Ward Brown
  9. Gracie Ward Brown
  10. Nimrod Ward
  11. Lou Minti Wade
  12. Harry Ward, Jr.
8. Allen graveyard, on John Allen farm.
  1. Sally Allen
  2. Ella Allen Mothershed
  3. Nat Allen
  4. Mrs. J. J. Allen
  5. Infant Allen
  6. Susie Allen Johns
  7. Mr. J. J. Allen

There are no markers, but these people are thought to be buried in this cemetery.

9. Bethel cemetery
  1. Daniel Cunningham
    - b. Jan. 29, 1829
    - d. June 30, 1899
  2. Amanda Cunningham
    - b. Sept. 4, 1837
    - d. Aug. 27, 1905
  3. Mary Oliver
    - b. 1851
    - d. 1925
  4. Charity Manor
    - b. Sept. 10, 1828
    - d. Jan. 12, 1892
  5. Sara F. Edwards Pitts
    - b. June 27, 1862
    - d. Feb. 12, 1951
  6. Willie Estes
    - b. May 23, 1902
    - d. May 22, 1969



7. Edward A. Barrett  
b. Oct. 16, 1893  
d. Dec. 15, 1918
8. Grant Riddle  
b. May 12, 1876  
d. Dec. 30, 1957
9. Doug Taylor  
b. 1880  
d. 1955
10. Ernest Finch, Sr.  
b. July 11, 1926  
d. Oct. 21, 1964
11. Abby Palmer  
b. 1899  
d. 1910
12. J. R. Palmer  
b. 1865  
d. 1925
13. Joseph McAbee  
b. June 8, 1888  
d. July 23, 1905
14. Helen Louise Barrett  
b. Aug. 15, 1928  
d. May 19, 1941
15. Billie Ray Barrett  
b. 1939  
d. 1940
16. Charles (an infant)  
b. 1937
17. Charles C. Barrett  
b. Oct. 4, 1888  
d. Apr. 9, 1961
18. Annie L. Barrett  
Feb. 19, 1908
19. Roger Dale Barrett  
b. March 21, 1950  
d. May 8, 1950
20. Margaret L. Jones  
b. 1928  
d. 1930
21. Larkin Maize
22. Jane Russell Maize
23. John Mays (no dates for the last three names)
24. Clarence McAbee, Jr.  
b. Dec. 7, 1923  
d. Dec. 28, 1928
25. Edward Riley Marlin  
b. 1833  
d. 1888



26. Oliver Barrett  
b. Feb. 18, 1901  
d. May 25, 1957
27. B. B. Barrett
28. Fannie O. Barrett (no dates on last two)
29. Oscar Barrett  
b. Oct. 16, 1880  
d. Dec. 26, 1948
30. James R. Jones  
1937
31. Lois M. Jones  
1941
32. Margie B. Jones  
b. 1908  
d. 1941
33. Ritter Jones  
1953
34. Robert (Bud) Jones  
b. 1871  
d. 1954
35. Baby Cantrell (no dates)
36. Betty Brimm (no dates)
37. William B. Brimm (no dates)
38. Kate Jones (no dates)
40. Sally Le Grande (no dates)
41. J. J. Taylor  
b. June 10, 1888  
d. Feb. 22, 1928
42. Robert Williams  
1935
43. Henry Barrett  
b. 1869  
d. 1939
44. Addie Williams  
b. March 17, 1902  
d. Aug. 17, 1960
45. James Noah McAbee  
b. Feb. 29, 1885  
d. Nov. 7, 1956
46. Annie Laurie McAbee  
b. March 17, 1887  
d. June 23, 1956
47. Mrs. Martha Sloan  
b. 1882  
d. 1946
48. Verla Brinkley  
b. Mar 29, 1954  
d. May 29, 1965





49. Mrs. Lizzie Thompson, wife of D. W. Thompson  
b. 1893  
d. March 10, 1920
50. J. L. McCullam  
March 12, age 31 years
51. Harold McCullam (no dates)
52. Mrs. Maroam McCullam (no dates)
53. Beulah Wade  
73 years
54. William Wade  
1885 - 93 years
55. Nancy Riddle  
b. Aug. 3, 1959, age 19 years
56. Estes (no dates)
57. Neil Richard Brewer, infant, March 12, 1963
58. Larry Wayne Brewer  
Sept. 17, 1956
59. Vickie Diane McAfee, no dates
60. Bettie Lee McAfee, no dates
61. Mattie H. Warren  
b. 1902  
d. 1930
62. Hazel Mai Barrett  
b. March 19, 1922  
d. May 8, 1937
63. Robert B. Wrather  
b. July 16, 1847  
d. March 1920
64. Bettie Jones Wrather, his wife  
b. 1857  
d. April 4, 1940
65. Virginia Lee Wrather, died in infancy  
b. Sept. 9, 1931  
d. Sept. 9, 1931
10. Bowman slave graveyard, in front of Bethel schoolhouse
11. MacGowan slave graveyard, on MacGowan property
12. MacGowan-Stockird family cemetery
  1. Ebenezer MacGowan  
b. Feb. 17, 1767  
d. April 30, 1850
  2. Frances MacGowan  
b. Oct. 6, 1781  
d. Oct. 5, 1852
  3. James Ellicott Stockird  
b. Sept. 9, 1817  
d. April 27, 1895
  4. Lucy B. Stockird  
b. Nov. 22, 1818  
d. April 28, 1866



5. Leonora Russworm Stockird
  - b. Jan. 4, 1833
  - d. Sept. 1, 1905
6. Mary (no dates) thought to be a servant of the family
7. Ann G., wife of William C. Fletcher
  - b. May 21, 1813
  - d. Sept. 25, 1850
8. Lucy Ann, infant daughter of W. C. and Ann G. Fletcher
  - b. Sept. 4, 1847
  - d. Oct. 10, 1848
9. Nanc F., infant daughter of James E. and Lucy B. Stockird
  - b. July 8, 1857
  - d. Dec. 29, 1858
10. Mary Ann Stockird
  - b. June 7, 1847
  - d. Feb. 14, 1872
11. William E. Stockird, Jr., age 6 mo. and 4 days
12. William E. Stockird, Sr.
  - b. Nov. 18, 1844
  - d. Mar. 28, 1869
13. James E. Stockird, Jr.
  - b. June 7, 1851
  - d. Aug. 1, 1871
14. William B. MacGowan
  - b. Oct. 9, 1817
  - d. Aug. 24, 1848
15. Sgt. J. W. Bowman, Co. 'K', 8th Regt. Tenn. Cav., C.S.A.
16. Members of the Dismukes and Russworm families:
  1. Sally Clark Russworm, 1799-1867
  2. Rosalind Russworm, 1835-1915
  3. Lockie Russworm Dismukes, 1843-1902
  4. Zack T. Dismukes, 1846-1910
  5. Ernest Jordan Dismukes, 1880-1893
  6. Sally Dismukes 1876-1896
  7. Hattie Dismukes Smith, 1873-1935
  8. Harry Smith, 1855-1935
17. Capt. T.E.S. Russworm, 9 Regt. Ward S, Tenn. Cav., C.S.A.
  - b. April 8, 1820
  - d. Oct. 10, 1873
18. Capt. Samuel C. Russworm, 17 Regt., Miss. Inf., C.S.A.
  - b. Feb. 25, 1837
  - b. Aug. 28, 1866
19. In memory of those buried in unmarked graves
  1. Benjamin M. Hunt, 1849-1897
  2. Sammie A. Hunt, 1882-1911
  3. James W. Hunt, 1847-1911
  4. Martha Stockird Hunt, 1849-1930

And all other unmarked graves.



13. Elliott Cemetery
  1. Elenor Elliott Arnold
    - b. Dec. 28, 1797
    - d. Jan. 8. 1860
  2. James Elliott
    - b. Oct. 1, 1795
    - d. Oct. 30, 1836
  3. William Elliott
    - b. 1798
    - d. Sept. 18, 1835
  4. Deborah Elliott, born in North Carolina
    - b. ?
    - d. March 9, 1829
  5. Jane Elliott Stockird
    - b. ?
    - d. 1866
  6. Mary Elliott Smith
  7. Capt. William Smith
  8. Jack Jones
  9. Mrs. Jack Jones (no dates found for the above named)
14. Elder graveyard, north of Shacklett Road on Patton property
  1. George Elder
  2. Amanda Elder
  3. John Elder
  4. Eliza Akin Elder
15. Miles slave graveyard, south of Reece Hays house
16. Henry Kimbro graveyard, just west of Buckeye Valley Road
  1. Henry Kimbro is only name known but others are buried here.
17. Jack Huddleston burying ground, Northwest of Antioch church
  1. Jack Huddleston
  2. Sallie Huddleston, his wife
  3. Anderson Huddleston (son)
  4. Hosca Brown
  5. Sallie Brown, his wife
18. Gooch cemetery, joins Huddleston cemetery
  1. Mike Gooch
  2. His wife, and other members of his family
19. Joe Brown cemetery, on Joe Brown's place.
  1. Charity B. Collier
  2. Her sister
  3. Anderson Brown, and others

The above six named are col. cemeteries. Information was given by members of the families. Information on Johns Hall cemetery given by James B. Ward

20. Ward cemetery, this cemetery is a short distance over the line, in the edge of Florence community, but most of the people buried here were members of Bethel Church, and participated in community affairs.



1. Sara Ann Agnes Shreader Neville
2. Best Ward, died at age 24
3. Mrs. Jarrell, daughter of Sara Ann Agnes Neville
4. Letitia Neville, died as a young lady
5. William (Billie) Miller
  - b. Nov. 15, 1872
  - d. Jan. 9, 1886
6. Martha Elizabeth Miller Baskette
  - b. Feb. 15, 1871
  - d. Dec. 4, 1908
7. Thomas Miller
  - b. Dec. 31, 1836
  - d. Mar. 1, 1914
8. Amanda Ward Miller
  - b. Sept. 22, 1843
  - d. June 12, 1912
9. Mary Ward Martin
10. Sara Ann Agnes Neville Ward
  - b. 1819
  - d. at age 91
11. Bettie Ward
  - b. ?
  - d. May 1922, age 74 years
12. Harriett A. Ward
13. Fannie Sherrell
14. James Ward





## THE CROWDERS OF READYVILLE, TENNESSEE

Brief excerpts from a manuscript written about 1958 by Clyde R. Crowder (1882-1961) of White County, Illinois. These excerpts are followed by comments by Mrs. Charles H. Fay who has researched the Philip Crowder family for several years.

"The first of my ancestors of which I have any knowledge came from England to Virginia in early Colonial days. This ancestor was either my great grandfather or my great-great grandfather. But I am under the impression that my uncle Elisha Crowder said that he would have been my great grandfather.

"Assuming that he was my great grandfather, I will say that he had seven sons, the youngest of whom was my grandfather whose name was Elisha Alexander Crowder who was born in Virginia in 1784 and who died in Rutherford County, Tennessee in 1843 in the month of October about three weeks before my father was born. I shall relate the cause of his death as father and my uncles related it to me, which was confirmed by a very old man who was born and raised in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and who know about it. His name was Henry Glasscock.

"Grandfather had the reputation of being the strongest man in Rutherford County in which he lived at the time of his death. Grandfather was a blacksmith as many of the older Crowdres were. One day a man rode up to grandfather's shop and said to him, "I understand that you are the strongest man in Rutherford County". He also stated that he was said to be the strongest man in his county. He challenged Grandfather to a trial of strength of toeing a line and throwing an anvil backward over their head. The one that threw in the farthest was to take the honor of being the strongest. Grandfather



threw last and threw the anvil ten feet farther than the other fellow. In performing this feat of strength, he ruptured a blood vessel inside and bled to death with an internal hemorrhage one year to a day from the time he threw the anvil, dying at the age of fifty-nine years, which was three weeks before my father was born. Henry Glasscock's story told to me in 1903 was substantially the same as told to me by my father and uncles.

"In mentioning that my grandfather was the youngest of seven sons, will say that the oldest was named Philip Crowder. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Sometime after this war, he moved to Kentucky and lived there until 1844, in which year he moved to Sangamon County, Illinois. He later died in this county and was buried there. On the South side of the old capitol buildings in Springfield is a metal tablet set in the masonry on the outside contains his and several other names of Revolutionary Heroes who are buried in Sangamon County. The Illinois Historical Society says that he had several children. Seventeen as I remember. Mitchell and George Hunsinger, now deceased, but who lived around Burnt Prairie, Illinois, were related through their mothers to Philip Crowder.

"My grandfather's brothers all lived to be very old men ranging in age, I am told, from 80 years to 109 years. He perhaps had sisters, but I know nothing of them.

"My grandmother's maiden name was Sarah Black. She was known by many as Aunt Sally Black. She was related to a former United States Commissioner of Pensions by the name of Black. Grandfather and Grandmother Crowder had eight sons and three daughters as far as I know, and of which I shall speak. All of them were born in Tennessee and so far



as I know in Rutherford County near Readyville. I shall name them as nearly as possible according to their age, but I am sure that some will not be correctly placed. Stephen was the oldest, followed by George, Elisha Alexander, Abigail, William, Crockett, Nathaniel Green, Ann, Susan, Robert, and John R. - my father.

"John Rick Crowder was born in Rutherford County, 27 October 1843. In joining the Union Army in 1861 or 1862, he gave his year of birth as 1844, which was an error on his part. Thus, in the War Department files at Washington, 1844 is given as the year of his birth. He never tried to have it changed as his discharge papers gave it that way and it might have interfered with his pension.

"Shortly after Henry Clay's compromise of 1850, people from the North and South begin to immigrate to the Kansas-Nebraska territory. In the spring of 1852, my father's family including his mother and his brothers and sisters set out from Tennessee in a Conestoga wagon drawn by oxen for this territory. They traveled North, across Tennessee and Kentucky to Colconda, Illinois, where they crossed the river. They planned to take the old stage route which ran through Vienna, Old Mount Pleasant, Jonesboro, into Missouri through Cape Girardeau, Jackson, and on to Independence, Missouri. These places were only villages at this time.

"Upon arriving at Jonesboro, they found two cousins who were brothers that had come a few months earlier from Tennessee. These brothers had also started to Kansas; but, upon arriving at Jonesboro, learned that the Illinois Central Railroad was to begin building its road through there the next year. They decided to stop awhile and work on this railroad.



They did stop because grandmother was ill, and the boys worked on the railroad when it began. Only two of father's brothers ever went any farther west. These two, Stephen and George, after several years had passed, went on into Missouri, around Hartsville and Carthage. The two cousins of whom I spoke finally settled near Laclede, Missouri. One of these two cousins, John, became the father of General Enoch Crowder of World War I fame. General Enoch Crowder, second cousin to my father, was not only a military man, but was a lawyer, diplomat, and an expert on monetary matters. He is said to have been responsible for the get up of the draft law used in World War I. Upon retiring from public life and the Army, he went to Chicago, became a member of a law firm where he remained until his death which occurred during the middle or later 1930's. My two oldest daughters talked to General Crowder while he was a member of his Chicago law firm, and he confirmed what I have written about his father, his uncle, himself, and our relationship.

"When father's family left Tennessee, the family owed some debts. Uncle William and Uncle Nathaniel, or Nat as he was called, remained in Tennessee to work and pay these debts. They worked and paid the debts and then walked from Tennessee to Illinois. This was, I think, in the autumn of 1852.

"Grandmother Crowder died in 1852 or 1853. Two or three of the boys, Uncle Steve, Uncle George, Uncle Elisha, and probably Aunt Abigail were married before coming to Illinois. Aunt "Abe" as she was called, married a Crowder, his name not known to me. He was only slightly related, if any, to her.





to her.

"Uncles William, Crockett, Nathaniel, Robert and father were in the Union Army of the Civil War.

"My father, John Rice Crowder, was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, near a small place called Readyville on October 27, 1843. He was born three weeks after his father, Elisha Alexander, died. Having never seen his father, he was supposed to have power to cure the thrush which small children have in their mouths. I have seen people bring babies for ten or fifteen miles to him, so that he could blow in their mouths. I saw him do this many times. It always cured them.

"Uncle Nat possessed power to stop blood on people or animals, also the power to cause warts to go away. He said it was by faith. Uncle Nat was a very good man and also a preacher. He was very well read in the Bible.

"The Schools to which father went were built of logs. I think he told me that he never got beyond the second grade. When he entered the Union Army in 1862, he could scarcely read and could not write enough to send letters home. A Mr. Henry Plater who was in the Army and was a former teacher taught him how to read and write. This lack of education is due largely to the fact that he had to make his home among his older brothers while he was growing up. In later life he could read and write quite well. He read newspapers and the Bible. He kept quite well informed on news of the day."

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Comments by Mrs. Charles H. Fay, 5403 Beverly Hill Lane, Apt. J, Houston, Texas 77056:

Having been born December 5, 1883, Mr. Clyde Rufus Crowder was about 75 when he wrote all he remembered of his Crowder forebearers. All the information he gave which I have checked is essentially factual. The names of the children of his father's brothers and sisters have been deleted but will be provided to anyone interested.

The 1850 Rutherford County Census shows this family in household No. 695 as follows:

Sarah Crowder	F.	age 44,	born South Carolina
Abi Crowder	F.	age 25	" "
George Crowder	M.	age 22,	born in Tennessee
Elizabeth	"	F. age 16	" "
Acey R.	"	M. age 14	" "
Nathaniel	"	M. age 12	" "
Robert	"	M. age 11	" "
John	"	M. age 6	" "

William Crowder was age 19 born Tennessee in the home of Mathew L. McElroy, age 35, born Virginia, visit No. 711.

Rutherford County Marriage Records confirm that Stephen Crowder married Mary A. Rodgers on 25 July 1844 and George G. Crowder married Sarah E. Boyd on 9 January 1849. No record is at hand to substantiate Mr. Crowder's affirmation that his Uncle Elisha and probably Aunt Abigail were also married before moving to Illinois.

The story of Cousin John is sketched by David A. Lockmiller's "Enoch H. Crowder, Soldier, Lawyer and Statesman." Enoch's father was John Herbert Crowder, IV, born 18 March 1831 near Marysville in Union County, Ohio; and his ancestors moved from Dinwiddie County to Mecklenburg County, Virginia, to Baltimore, Maryland, then Ohio, and Van Buren County, Iowa,



before settling in Grundy County, Missouri. The stay in Jonesboro, Illinois, is not mentioned.

The statement that Philip Crowder was the eldest of his grandfather's six brothers is undoubtedly true. However, he assumed that this Philip was the Revolutionary War Sergeant when in fact he was the Philip Crowder born 1780 in Virginia who fought in the War of 1812 from Rutherford County, Tennessee.

The Revolutionary War soldier, Sgt. Philip Crowder who was born 7 April 1760 in Amelia County, Virginia, and died February 1844 in Sangamon County, Illinois, was the third son of Abraham Crowder (surgeon) born 30 August 1730 in Bristol, Prince George County, Virginia, and his wife, Frances Tucker born 1730 in Amelia County. When Philip was five the family moved from Amelia County to Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Philip was still there when he enrolled in the Virginia militia, first as a substitute for his brother, William, and later for several enlistments of his own. By his first wife, Susan Parish, whom he married in Mecklenburg County, Philip had five children. He stated in his pension application that he moved in 1785 to Rutherford County, North Carolina; in 1791 removed to Greene County, Kentucky; and in 1830 removed to Sangamon County, Illinois. Meanwhile he had ten more children by two other wives, Rachel Saunders and Sally Chandler. His children are named in Power's "History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois."

Walter R. Sanders' book on the John Chandler family states that Philip Crowder was a licensed preacher on the Baptist Church.

Although Philip did not mention it in his pension application, he



probably lived in Hardin County, Kentucky, for a time, and at least three of his children were married there between 1806 and 1809. It does not appear that this elder Philip Crowder ever lived in Tennessee.

Now we shall look at the younger Philip who did live in Rutherford County, Tennessee. The Third Census of the United States in 1810 published in the Rutherford County Historical Society Publication No. 4 shows Philip Crowder 26 to 45 years old as head of a household in Rutherford County. The eldest female in the home is age 16 to 26 (Philip's wife Charlotte was 67 in 1850 census of Pike County, Illinois while Philip was 70).

On 2 January 1851, Philip Crowder in Pike County, Illinois, applied for bounty land (under the act passed 28 September 1850) because of his service in the War of 1812 while a resident of Rutherford County, Tennessee. He said that he was a private in the company commanded by Captain George Barnes in the second regiment of Tennessee's militia commanded by Colonel Carroll; that he was drafted in Rutherford County on or about 1 November 1815 for a six months term and was honorably discharged at Columbia, Tennessee about 1 April 1815. He had sold the discharge subsequently for the monthly pay due him. His descendants have often stated that he was with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans, and history shows that Major General William Carroll was indeed at the Battle of New Orleans.

Philip Crowder had married Charlotte Robins in South Carolina, possibly in Greenville County, about 1806.

Before 1830 this Crowder family moved to White County, Illinois. Their daughter Nancy born 14 October 1807, in South Carolina, married 17 Sept. 1828 John Hunsinger (1806-1877) in White County; and another daughter,





Massa, born 20 May 1812 married 27 September 1830 Adam C. Hunsinger (1807-1873), brother to John. Mr. Clyde R. Crowder mentioned George T. Hunsinger the youngest son and 12th of 13 children of John and Nancy Hunsinger and Mitchell Hunsinger who was the seventh of 16 children of Adam C. and Massa Hunsinger.

While residing in White County, Charlotte Crowder was a member of the Regular Baptist Church at Mount Pleasant in Burnt Prairie Township; and many of the descendants of the above two daughters are members of that church today.

After 1840 Philip and Charlotte moved to Pike County, Illinois. It was here that daughter Susan born 8 March 1821 in Rutherford County married 20 January 1845 Jacob G. Bowers; and son Philip born 1825 in Tennessee married 7 April 1845 Maria Bowers. The Bowers family had come from Ohio.

In 1849 Jacob Gusler Bower went to California on a prospecting tour, having crossed the plains with a large expedition. He first located in Trinity County and for a time successfully mined in the Cow Creek country. He returned to Pike County via Panama in 1851 and during the spring of 1852 he and his wife and three children in a wagon drawn by oxen joined a large train of emigrants and crossed the plains in safety. They stayed in Hangtown (now Placerville) for a time, but later that same year moved to Yolo County and purchased 320 acres of land. Mr. Bower died on 8 July 1894 and his widow Susan, lived until 1902. They are buried at Mary's Chapel cemetery in Yolo County with several of their descendants on the same lot. On an adjoining lot is the government headstone of Philip Crowder showing he was in the



2nd Tennessee Militia of the War of 1812. Even though the History of Yolo County by Tom Gregory does not state this, Philip Crowder must have followed his daughter, Susan to California where he died. There is no headstone for Philip's wife, Charlotte, who may have died in Pike County before Philip started to California, but no stone has been found to date in Pike County for her. As already noted, she was still living when the 1850 census was taken in Pike County.

This younger Philip Crowder apparently did not learn to write since his signature always appears with an "x", and he did not have a deed to any land in the various places we know he lived. The search has not been an easy one for this man born Virginia, married in South Carolina, who fought in the War of 1812 from Rutherford County, Tennessee, moved to White County Illinois, then to Pike County, Illinois, and who is buried in Yolo County, California.

#### REFERENCES

David A. Lockmiller, Enoch H. Crowder, Soldier, Lawyer and Statesman (Columbia: The University of Missouri Studies, 1955) 15-17.

John Carroll Power, History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois. Centennial Record (Springfield: Edwin A. Wilson & Col, 1876) 237-240.

Walter R. Sanders, The John Chandler Family of Green and Taylor Counties, Kentucky(1947) 7-8.

Henry G. Wray, Comp. . "Population Schedule of the Third Census of the United States 1810, Rutherford County, Tennessee, "Rutherford County Historical Society Publication No. 4 (Fall, 1974) 50.

Tom Gregory et al, History of Yolo County, California (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company, 1913) 693-695.



MAP OR PLAT OF THE FIRST LOTS IN THE TOWN  
OF MURFREESBORO

Along about 1927, while searching titles for various parties, I discovered that the Plat of the Original Plan of the City of Murfreesboro, was never recorded, or at least, did not appear in any book in the Register's office. Thereupon, I began looking in spare time through the early books in that office, and discovered that Lot No. 1 was at the N. W. corner of what is now West College, and North Front Streets, and Lot No. 70 was in the Old City Cemetery

Looking through the books page by page, since many of the indexes had been destroyed, I got the information needed to prepare a plat of the property, donated by Col. William F. Lytle, to the City of "Murfreesborough"

Miss Martha Wright, presently employed in the office of the Register of Deeds for Rutherford County, now has a replica of the plat which prepared, and she has added further information as to other additions to the City of Murfreesboro.

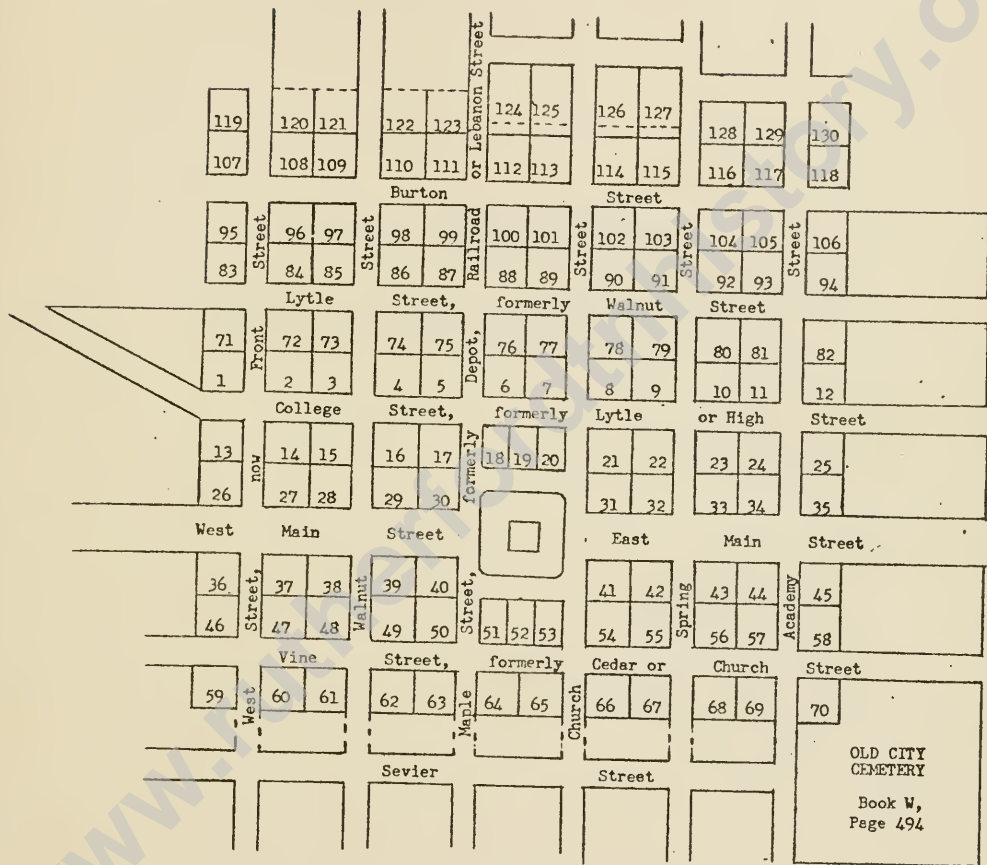
You are at liberty to make any use which you may desire, of the plat which I made and which Miss Wright now has.

Howell Washington



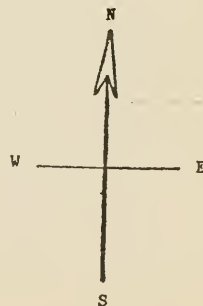
ORIGINAL PLAN OF THE TOWN OF MURFREESBOROUGH  
AS LAID OFF IN 1818 BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM LYTLE

LOTS 1-130



NOTES:

1. This map is not drawn to scale. The size of the numbered lots may vary according to location.
2. Lots 1-70 were researched and platted by HOWELL WASHINGTON, Attorney-at-Law, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
3. Lots 71-130 were added in 1976 after further research by the RUTHERFORD COUNTY REGISTER'S OFFICE.
4. For further reference, see Deed from William Lytle, Sr., to the Commissioners of Murfreesboro, recorded in Deed Book H, page 385, R.O.R.C., Tennessee.







A VIEW OF THE BATTLEFIELD  
OF STONES RIVER

From the New York Times, Sept. 2, 1865  
Furnished by Fred Brigrance



Murfreesboro, Tenn., Friday, Aug. 25, 1865

Murfreesboro, the old capital of Tennessee, is another of the many places abounding in this region of no special note in themselves, but made famous by the rebellion. A recent visit to it I found singularly interesting, and having gathered some facts, and acquired some information which will be of interest, I think, to sundry readers of the TIMES, I shall make the record for their particular benefit.

The city may have had a population of 6,000 or 7,000 before the war, though it looks now as if this figure were a very liberal estimate. It is a terribly war-scratched place. The destruction of property in it and around it has been immense. All peaceful and profitable industries have been for dreary years rudely broken in upon, and the old town wears the appearance of having lain long in a trance, and now slowly awakening from it to find its beautiful and valued things ravished away by the spoiler during the sway of its profound lethargy.

The town is spread over considerable space, and all that space, with the buildings of various kinds occupying it, betokens the terrific ravages of war.

What these particular ravages are, have been too often told to need repetition. Fences torn down to the naked and unsightly stumps, buildings more or less dismantled--these are only a part of the defacing work that war delights in. The state house of a former day, stands in the centre of the Murfreesboro square--a substantial, dome-crowned edifice within which Tennessee legislators were wont to expound laws and make them; and, though a structure no way striking architecturally or esthetically, looked upon in its palmy day, no doubt, as a wonderful creation. Military offices have for months and months been found here, and Uncle Sam's bayonets have bristled and do still upon its porticoes and along its courts. Its firm stone fence, as it once was, capped with iron railing, has all crumbled away. And its whole appearance with surroundings, seems to exclaim if this be the condition of the city's heart what must be that of the body and extremities?

The aspect, in fact, is sharply military. Compassing the place for a distance of seven miles is a series of lunettes, redoubts earthworks, &c., in form starshaped, and all fitted to do yeoman's execution--the complement of guns for the whole number being sixty-six--on such daring assailants as may call forth their slumbering energies. This has been done at several memorable periods; by WHEELER in October of 1863, and again in September of 1864. On the first of these occasions, this marauding cavalry leader lay around the town for two days and a half, and on his second visit remained seven days, being driven off both times with loss.

FORREST tried his hand next in concert with HOOD. He arrived before Murfreesboro and the day after the battle of Franklin, and remained here some twenty days. The programme was for FORREST to take Murfreesboro, while HOOD should take Nashville. Gen. THOMAS slightly disappointed the latter in his darling scheme. Gen. MILROY baffled the attempt and efforts of the former. The battle of the Cedars, fought in sight of Murfreesboro, in which MILROY repulsed FORREST, having more than twice the number of the former, capturing many men and two 22-pounders, proved that all FORREST'S plans in this quarter would come to naught. Accordingly, after HOOD'S defeat before Nashville, FORREST abandoned the ground here and



joined in a retreat which, in the case of the worse-baffled HOOD, became little less than a disastrous rout. During all the period of FORREST'S stay about Murfreesboro, skirmishing was going on daily at some point of the lines. Shells from the rebels' batteries occasionally flew into the city. Several buildings, among them the State-House, bear the ugly marks such as these gentle missiles are wont to make.

The State-House (as it was before the capital was removed) has other incidents connected with it that illustrate the rebellion. JOHN MORGAN, of raiding memory, married here, in 1862, a daughter of Judge READY, formerly member of Congress and long among the most influential and prominent of citizens. After the interesting ceremony, the happy pair held a public reception in one of the legislative chambers, at which numbers of the officers and men of MORGAN'S command, and citizens generally, were present with their congratulations, and wishes for the long life and happiness of the newly wedded. In spite of the wishes, the life of MORGAN did not last long, and Mrs. M. is a widow at her father's house.

At the breaking out of the rebellion, a citizen named WINSHIP ascended to the top of the State-House, and in his newfledged rebel zeal, tore down the Stars and Stripes floating from the staff there, and put the secession rag in its place. When the news reached Murfreesboro of the fall of Richmond, this man was compelled to go to the top of the capital, and on the very spot where he had, four years before, committed this indignity upon the nation's flag, to unfurl the banner of the victorious and free, and for half an hour to keep it waving in view of shouting and rejoicing crowds that filled the grounds below. It was a fitting punishment for a felon deed.

After the surrender of Lee's army, a fine liberty pole, 156 feet in height, was erected in the State-House grounds, and a splendid flag, raised by general contribution, was lifted to the breeze amid the acclamations of an enthusiastic multitude. Judge READY, Chaplain EARNSHAW and Squire BURGER made addresses in honor of "that standard sheet" thus propitiously unfurled, and destined to "float forever".

Murfreesboro had nine hospitals after the battle of Stone River, the number being afterward reduced to three or four, and now reduced to one, containing about 100 patients, occupying the Soule Female Seminary. The churches used for this purpose are most of them now in condition to be opened for Divine service, several of them being so employed. Nearly every minister of the town was rebel, the only exception I have heard being Prof. PENDLETON, who taught in the Union (Baptist) University here. He was from Ohio, and is now returned there. The rebel pastors fled when the Union occupancy began, and their churches were, of course, closed--those, at least, that the government did not occupy. Several of these churches are now opened under Union auspices.

Rev. Dr. PRETTIMAN, formerly Missionary to Bulgaria, (Turkey) is recently come as a missionary to the Methodist church in this place, and has commenced operations with very encouraging prospects. He found around him here some thirty earnest members of his own order from the North, and with these his foothold will be firm at once. He is moreover a gentleman of culture and of pleasing manners, and withal an excellent preacher. Rev.



Mr. ANDREWS, sent by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, has been laboring here about four weeks. He, too, finds a considerable number of Northern Presbyterians, ready and anxious to hold up his hands, and promote his reconstructing Christian work. Rev. Mr. DUNN, sent hither by the Baptist Home Missionary Society--and here some three weeks--is also ministering in his sphere, with fair prospects of usefulness. In fact, the religious interest in the town has been utterly prostrated and paralyzed for upward of three years and but for the aid thus rendered from the North, a long time must have elapsed without any serious attempt, from this quarter, to build up what the rebellion has so disastrously thrown down.

This place indeed was one of the rebel strongholds. It has fought the Union, with "teeth, nails, claws, beak, wings" as Carlyle expresses it, and only succumbed through sheer force. Of course its sanctuaries shared from the fatal effects springing from such insane fury. The beautiful houses that the fathers built others must now occupy, and will, till a better and truer spirit possesses the minds of the former worshippers.

There was a flourishing college here before the rebellion, combining theological and medical courses of study, with purely literary, and belonging to the Baptist order. It stands just on the outskirts toward the south, a commodious, well-built structure, in the midst of grounds that must once have been extremely beautiful. The Union and rebel lines hemmed it in on either side, and the result is, that all around it is defaced and mutilated, the building itself being rifled of its windows and doors, and presenting other evidence of the scars and gashes it received from its exposed situation. A heavier loss than this was the one sustained by its library, which, consisting of 13,000 volumes, is now reduced to the beggarly account of 700--the rest being scattered and lost beyond recovery. This going into rebellion for a theory is very costly, as well to literature as to religion and humanity.

I was struck with the number and extent of the cotton fields about Murfreesboro. The County of Rutherford always stood high as cotton county, but this year it surpasses itself. Major STUBBLEFIELD, District Attorney at Nashville, a long resident of the State, and familiar with its agriculture, informed me lately that Tennessee would raise more cotton this season than for any one year for twenty years past. This statement was confirmed by what I saw and heard here. The crops were looking finely, though the long dry and hot spell had begun to pinch them a little. A reliable gentleman told me that at and about Murfreesboro not less than a hundred Northern men had a hand this year in cotton crops, with good prospect of success. Major JOHNSON, who leased a farm of Mr. MANEY for several years to grow cotton on, realized, it is said, \$90,000 by his crop last season. Two Pennsylvania companies are at work in the same business near by, and others, like them, have been tempted to strike in by the high price of cotton, and the comparatively low figure at which excellent land may be rented. This will explain the large aggregate yield expected this year, and will point to what the coming year will be likely to unfold in this business. It is certain that Tennessee holds out rare inducements for people from without to embark in an enterprise which promises to render large returns to capital and industry.





I rode out to the famous Stone River Battlefield two or three miles distant from the town. I had noticed a square, unadorned, limestone monument, close by the railroad tract, as I passed the spot several times before. I know it stood near where the hottest battle raged, and brave men fell fast. On visiting it I found it to be erected by the survivors of the brigade commanded by Col. HAZEN, since Major-Gen. HAZEN his immediate promotion being the result of meritorious services on this great day. This monument--rather a heavy piece of work--recounts the gallant exploits of this brigade; has the names of its officers who fell inscribed on it, and records, in some well-turned sentences, the honor due by the country to the noble men--the heroes of Shiloh also--who sealed their devotion to it with their blood. Several small stones close by contain the names of private soldiers who fell upon that spot. The trees standing all round display in abundance huge gashes and limbless trunks, the effect of the crushing artillery. The very spot was shown me, close to the tomb, where Gen. Rosecrans Adjutant-General galloping to execute an order had his head taken clean off by a cannon ball, the body being carried several yards before it fell from the horse. He was an accomplished officer and a man of great personal worth. Here, too, Gen. VAN CLEVE, distinguished at the battles of Mill Spring and Perryville, was wounded and borne off the field, to recover, however, for the fight at Chickamauga, where less success attended the Union arms. The General is now the commandant, honored of all who know him--of the Middle District of Tennessee, with headquarters at Murfreesboro.

Advancing along the railroad northwardly a couple of hundred rods, and looking across it toward the east a similar distance, a gentle wood-crowned eminence appears, on which ROSECRANS massed his batteries among the trees and awaited the coming up of the rebel battalions under BRECKINRIDGE, certain that the day was won and the Yankees irrecoverably routed. Here the fate of the battle hung suspended and the bloody day was to be decided. On came the vivacious, shouting masses, from the direction of Stone River, little suspecting the terrible reception in store for them. On they came, in the attitude of vanquishers and pursuers. They had broken and pushed back the Union lines; they had only to follow up and make assurance of victory doubly sure. Suddenly, eighty cannon opened upon the advancing columns, pouring their deadly missiles into the very midst of the dense array. The stock was tremendous--the carnage was awful. From BRECKINRIDGE'S own report to the rebel authorities, 2,000 of his men fell there in the space of twenty minutes. To advance in the face of this fearful and deadly hail was impossible. The tide was checked on the spot, then pulled back. The lines just before so confident fell back, broken and dispirited, beyond Stone River, leaving him whom they thought discomfited master of the field. It was a great achievement, and productive of great results. Upon the brows of the command and his gallant army the laurels won that day will remain green so long as history can embalm the noble deeds of a nation's heroic sons.

Those who fell here deserve well that special honor should be paid to their remains. This is about to be done. Sixteen acres were set apart by Gen. THOMAS about a year ago for this pious purpose. The tract is where the



hottest battle raged for a part of the time, one side of it resting on the railroad, in plain sight of the multitudes who will pass and repass it on that great line of travel. The opposite side rests on the Murfreesboro pike. From each of these points the ground slopes gradually upward. On the top a monument 75 feet high will be erected, from appropriate designs not yet completed. Centering in the square on which the monument is to stand, are twelve avenues running up from the outer circle. Along these will be ranged the various lots to receive the remains of the honored dead, each State having a suitable lot appropriated to it for the interment of the dead belonging to it, as far as they can be identified. A wall 4 1/2 feet high by 2 1/2 feet thick, built of granite, will surround the cemetery, while the two main entrances fronting the railroad and the pike, will be under high arches finished with suitable emblematical devices. A fine quarry near at hand will furnish the granite for the walls as well as for the monument, and superb gravel for the avenues is also near at hand. From the One Hundredth and Eleventh Regiment U. S. C. T. quartered here, four squads of twenty-five men each, have been detailed to perform all the work with competent masons to superintend and direct them. These men are now at work, getting the grounds in readiness for those who are to sleep here after being removed from where they are resting now. It is believed that upwards of 8,000 of our soldiers fallen in battle in the various engagements around Murfreesboro, as well as at Stone River, will be interred in this cemetery.

The whole work is under the special superintendence of Rev. W. Earnshaw, for two years sole Chaplain at Murfreesboro, previously Chaplain of the Fortyninth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers and present at nearly every battle in the Peninsula campaign. He is an intelligent, laborious and efficient officer, and will give his earnest and constant attention to the important work which Gen. THOMAS has intrusted to his care. He intends to make the spot every way, worthy of its noble occupants so that when kinsfolk and friends visit it, or strangers are drawn to the consecrated ground, they may find it everything that affection or patriotism could desire, as the best resting place of the loved and heroic men who died that their country might live. C. Y. S.



## RECORD OF JORDAN WILLIFORD

Obtained from Records in the Pension Office Washington, D.C.  
by Mrs. Elvis Rushing

State of Tennessee  
Rutherford County

On this first day of August, 1836, personally appeared in open court, before the County Court of said Rutherford County, now sitting, JORDAN WILLIFORD, a resident of McKnight's district #17 in the said County of Rutherford and State of Tennessee, aged 77 years the 30th day of May, 1836, who, being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7, 1832.

I. JORDAN WILLIFORD, was born in Southampton County in the State of Virginia, on the 30th day of May, 1759, as I learned from my parents and from the record of my birth in my father's Bible. At the time I entered the service of the United States in the Revolution I lived in the said County of Southampton, with my father, WILLIAM WILLIFORD, with whom I had lived from the time of my birth and with whom I continued to reside, when at home, until after peace was made. I now have a record of my age which I copied from my father's Bible.

I first entered the service of the United States in the month of May, 1778, to the best of my recollection, in a militia company under Captain Lewis Joiner, in the regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Blunt (Blount?). My father lived some 25 miles from Southampton Court House, afterward called Jerusalem, and in about 15 miles from Smithfield, then the County



Seat of the Isle of Wight County. I first entered the service of the United States under a draft, to prevent the landing of the enemy at Smithland (Smithfield?). The rendezvous was at the bridge on the Blackwater River at a place called Broadwater, thence we went to Smithfield where we met other forces. Colonel Wells and Colonel Parker were there from the County of Isle of Wight. I also remember Colonel Richardson who seemed to be our chief in command.

Benjamin Griffin and Bowen were lieutenants in Capt. Joiner's company. I believe that Butts was Major in Col. Blunt's regiment, other field officers not recollected. I remained in the service at Smithfield two weeks. During the time no fighting took place. I served on a guard at Mackey's Mills, about 4 or 5 miles from Smithfield. It was said another guard was stationed near the mouth of Piggin Creek from whence the enemy's vessels were seen in Hampton Roads. After the British ships, or tenders, as they were then called, left, we were discharged. I received a written discharge from Captain Joiner, but have lost it. In this campaign I served at least 2 weeks.

I was again called into service of the United States some time in the year 1780, I believe in the spring of the year, but cannot state the date precisely. I again entered and served under Capt. Joiner in the regiment of Capt. Blount. The rendezvous of the regiment was again on the Blackwater River at the place called Broadwater. The British at this time were understood to be in and have possession of Norfolk and Portsmouth. I understood our objective to be to protect our people from the British scouting parties.

Colonel Blount's regiment moved in the direction of Norfolk. We met Col. Wells with the Isle of Wight regiment. We moved in different directions.





We were through the County of Nansemond; we were also in Norfolk and Isle of Wight Counties. A detachment was frequently garrisoned at Mead's Mill, also, at a little village called Jericho. I occasionally served in these detachments. In this tour of service I was engaged at least 45 days. We had no engagement with the enemy. We were discharged at Crocker's Old Field in the Isle of Wight County, about the first of July, 1780, to the best of my recollection. I, then, also, received a written discharge from service, written by Major Boykin, which discharge I have since lost.

I again entered the service of the U.S. in March, I believe, 1781, in Southampton Militia Regiment commanded by Col. Blount, under my old Captain Joiner. The rendezvous was again on the Blackwater at the same place as before mentioned. We met the militia from the adjoining counties at Lawrence's Field to the best of my recollection. General Muhlenburgh was there and was chief in command. Colonel Merriweather, who, it was said, had been an officer in the Continental Line, joined us and took command of our regiment. Blount then went home, but I believe returned before we were discharged.

Major DeCloman, a Frenchman, was an officer in our regiment and much esteemed as a gentleman and skilful soldier. Col. Parker was along and had command of the regiment from the Isle of Wight. In this tour Major DeCloman was put under arrest for insulting and abusing Colonel Parker. I remember to have seen DeCloman under arrest, and was informed that in a conversation about the French assisting us in the war, Col. Parker had said that he believed the French were deceitful; that they talked of help, but had never done us any good; whereupon DeCloman seized him by the collar



and in the scuffle tore off a piece of Parker's coat. But DeCloman was again resored to command.

The army went from Lawrence's through Suffolk and on towards Norfolk. We remained at Suffolk one or two days. The whole number under Muhlenburgh was supposed to be 1200. The forces crossed a branch of Norfolk River on a bridge and took camps at a place called Shoulder's hill, about a half mile from the bridge. The British could not easily attack us here without crossing the bridge. About a mile before we got to the bridge we passed a British fort some half-mile to our left, and 3 cannons were fired from the fort, but without effect. While stationed at Shoulder's Hill, the Whigs of the neighborhood, as it is understood, gave note that a party of the British had left the fort and were out after beef. A detachment was sent after them under Col. Parker, who had a skirmish with the British party at a church not far from the fort. I did not go out with Col. Parker, but was sent with others under Captain Cummings to Parker's assistance. Captain Cummings met Col. Parker returning. Col. Parker had one man killed. His name was Hutchins. He was a true Whig that lived in the neighborhood and was serving as a pilot. Parker's detachment killed and wounded 5 or 6 of the enemy and had them brought into camp in a cart. While encamping at Shoulder's Hill we had many alarms, but no more fighting.

One evening, just as the men were getting supper, we received orders to march. We started about sunset and crossed Northwest River on a bridge, at a place called Northwest Landing, about Midnight. There was a breastwork there called Gregory's Fort where we encamped 2 or 3 days. From this place the Infantry crossed the Dismal Swamp, and the baggage with a small company of housemen went round the swamp.



I crossed with the Infantry, and we went on through Suffolk to Lawrence's Field where, I think, we met the baggage and horsemen, thence to Broadwater on the Blackwater, where we found men ready to take our places in the service. We were then discharged. I received a written discharge from Capt. Joiner, which I have since lost. In camp I served at least 9 weeks, and was discharged, as I believe, in June, 1781.

In the last of July or first of August, 1781, I was again called into service under Captain John Simmons in Col. Blount's regiment. The rendezvous was at Surry Old Court House in what then was called Sussex County. We there met the militia from the adjoining counties. Col. Judkin was there from Sussex, and Major Boice from Surry County, who had been in the regular service. There was five or six hundred of us met at Surry Old Court House, thence, we marched in 2 or 3 weeks to Jamestown, remained there about 2 days, and thence to the New Magazine near Williamsburg, stayed there 2 or 3 weeks until the arrival of the northern troops under General George Washington. I there saw General Washington on horseback.

The regulars under Washington went onward Yorktown and our militia followed on in a few days. We arrived at Yorktown before a gun was fired in the siege of that place. The particulars of the battle of Yorktown are known from history. I was present and in service during the whole of that memorable battle. I remember only one out of Capt. Simmons company was killed. After the capitulation of Cornwallis and his army, Col. Blount's regiment went with the guard of prisoners toward Winchester, but was relieved at Falmouth. We then marched back to Fredericksburg and were there discharged. I received a written discharge from Captain Vaughn who had taken



command of our company in the place of Simmons who had returned home after the capture of Cornwallis. In this campaign I served at least 9 weeks.

I stated that I had been drafted in the first campaign herein mentioned. I was called into the service in the same way in each campaign in which I served. The County of Southampton was at an early period put into classes or divisions. Every man drew a ticket from a hat or box, which ticket when drawn designated the class or division to which he belonged. They were then called into service by divisions and I suppose we were rather considered Minute Men than as drafted. I always served as a Private, except during the Battle of Yorktown I acted as Sergeant.

I married my present wife Charity, formerly CHARITY HOILLOMAN, in Surry County, in February, 1783. I continued to reside in Southampton County until 1801 or 1802, then I moved to Guilfoil County, North Carolina (there is a Guilford Co., in North Carolina) resided there 2 years and thence removed to Tennessee, Rutherford County, in which County I have ever since resided. I refer to Joseph Trimble, Robert Overall, Jesse Barton, Jacob Wright, Esra Jones, ROBERT SAUNDERS, David M. Jarratt, Jarratt Cocke, and Enoch H. Jones, as my neighbors to whom I am known, and who can testify as to my character for veracity, and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution.

I do not know of any person living by whom I can make direct proof of my services as a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity, except the present, and I declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

JORDAN WILLIFORD





Sworn to and subscribed  
on the day and year  
first aforesaid

Robert S. Morris, Clerk of the County Court

We, David Clark, a clergyman residing in the County of Rutherford in the state of Tennessee, and David M. Jarratt, residing in the same county, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Jordan Williford, who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration; that we believe him to be 77 years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in this opinion.

David Clark  
D. M. Jaratt

Hobart S. Morris  
Clerk

and the said court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter, and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the Court further certifies that it appears to them that David Clark who has signed the preceding certificate is a clergyman, residing in said county of Rutherford, and that David M. Jarratt, who has also signed the same, is a resident in the same county and is a credible person, and that their statement is entitled to credit

William Vinson, Chairman of the Co. Court  
for said County of Rutherford



I, Robert Morris, Clerk of the County Court of Rutherford in the State of Tennessee, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court, in the matter of the application of Jordan Williford for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand and seal of office at Murfreesborough, this second day of August, in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight Hundred and thirty-six.

Robert S. Morris, Clerk

Note: The label endorsed on the outside is 33796

Jordan Williford, Tennessee

Admitted 6 mos. 5 days

\$20.55

100



Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
June 28, 1916

Miss Carrie Williford

Dear Great Niece,

I received a letter from niece Fanny Willard enclosed in a letter from you making inquire about the Williford Family.

The only Willifords I have known anything about are your father's ancestors. Jordan Williford, a Revolutionary soldier, lived in sight of my father's and I remember him. He was small and slender. He lived to be nearly one hundred years old.

I was at his burial. He is buried about two miles west of Hall's Hill, a post office on banks of Stone River, Rutherford County, Tenn. He was your great-great grandfather. His sons were Jordan, Willis, Samuel, Robert. Sam was your great grandfather. His sons were CLAIBORNE, Jesse, William, John and James. I suppose you know about Uncle Jesse as he lived in Anna. I do not know what became of William. I saw John Williford in the army in our Civil War. He was out from Mississippi, but that is more than 50 years ago. James Williford died at Hall's Hill this county about 7 years ago. He left no children.

It may be you would like to know who it is that is writing to you. Well, I am your Grandmother Williford's youngest and only living brother. My youngest sister is living. Her name is Sarah Lucille Rion. Her post office is Murfreesboro, Tenn. RR7. There was one other sister, Nancy Jane, who raised a large family in Texas, and died at Pine Mills, Texas. She married a Mr. Reed.

My brothers were Richard and John, Thomas and Robert. Richard was the father of Joe, the man that visited at your father's. Thomas raised a family in Arkansas and died there. John and Robert died young.

Well I guess you are tired of reading family history. I will give my age and quit. I lack a little of being 79 years old.

I have two children, Joe and James. Joe is a dentist in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. James lives with me. Married 53 years. Have never had a death in our family.

D. J. Sanders  
Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
RR7, Box 50

DRURY JOSIAH SANDERS, brother of Mary Elizabeth Sanders Williford,  
wife of Claiborne Holloman Williford.



ROLL OF MAJOR HARDY MURFREES COMPANY IN 2 N. CAROLINA  
BATTALLION COMMANDED BY COLONEL JOHN PATTON, WHITE PLAINS,  
SEPT. 9th, 1778

Furnished by Mrs. D. C. Daniel, Jr.

The following was found on microfilm at National Archives in Washington, D.C. There were assorted muster rolls on this film from various regiments throughout the thirteen colonies. The film was entitled "Muster Rolls from the Revolutionary War". The star next to a name indicates that the script was difficult to decipher, and hence the spellings of the names may be in error.

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TIME INLISTED</u>	<u>TIME ENGAGED FOR WAR YEARS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
1. Anthony Crutcher, Serg.	14 May 77	3	
2. John Poulson, Ditto	11 May 76	2 1/2	
3. Samuel Stringer, Ditto		2 1/2	Sick Valley Forge
4. John Mardray, Cropl.	13 May 76	2 1/2	
5. Willis Wiggins, Ditto	17 Apl. 76	2 1/2	
6. Pearcon Peal, Ditto	22 June 76	3	
7. William Ponder, Drumm.	30 June 77	3	
8. Ezekial Whaley, Fifer	20 July 77	3	
* 9. Thadar Bonton, Lieut	16 Apl. 76	2 1/2	
*10. Thomas Metisuk	16 Apl. 76	2 1/2	
11. Hardy Bird	1 July 77	3	
12. William Saunders	1 Feby. 77	3	
13. Samuel Baxtor	22 Nov. 76	3	
14. James Pulley	12 May 76	2 1/2	
15. John Harvey	17 Sept. 76	3	
16. Balitha Tilmon	2 June 77	3	
17. Miles Knight	9 Nov. 77	2 1/2	





<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TIME INLISTED</u>	<u>TIME ENGAGED FOR WAR YEARS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
18. William Scott	3 May 77	2/12	
*19. Andron Wilkins	2 May 77	3	
20. James Roberts		3	
21. Arthur Adams	12 July 77	3	
22. Reuben Knight	16 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
23. William Sweat	20 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
24. William Thurston	16 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
25. Robert Jenkins	29 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
26. William Mitchell	2 June 77	3	
27. Abel Edmunds	1 Feb. 77	3	
28. Jacob Braboy	9 May 76	2/12	
29. William Farmer	29 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
*30. Spinoneva Naifield	10 May 76	2/12	
31. John Skinner	1 May 76	2 1/2	
32. Thomas Depson	19 Jany. 77	3	
33. John Hairgroves	19 May 77	3	
34. Humphrey Callahan			
35. Thomas Scott	16 June 77	3	
36. John Husk			
37. William Hoggard	29 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
38. Samuel Carter	26 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
39. William Church	12 May 76	2 1/2	
40. Hezekiah Jones	11 Aprl. 76	2 1/2	
41. Arthur Whitley	2 May 76	2 1/2	



<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TIME INLISTED</u>	<u>TIME ENGAGED FOR WAR YEARS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
42. Mathon Herring	8 July 77	3	
43. John Shean	21 July 77	3	
44. Nathaniel Cooper	5 May 76	2 1/2	
45. Ephraim Hooks	9 May 76	2 1/2	
46. Elexander Flood	4 July 77	3	
47. John Tilmon	1 July 77	3	
48. Theophilas Hays	3 March 76	2 1/2	
49. Andrew Saunders	1 Feb. 77	3	
50. William Swinson	1 Feb. 77	3	
51. Francis Copes	29 Mar. 77	3	
52. Robert Williams			At Shoe Factory
53. Richard Roberts			Waggoner
54. Morson Williams			Ditto
*55. William Conell	7 Oct. 77	3	U. Master Genl. D
56. Brien Smith			Waggoner
57. John Parrish	1 Sept. 76	2 1/2	Ditto
58. John Stringer			Sick Valley Forge
59. Stephen Emory	1 Feb. 77	3	Ditto
60. Francis Sumner			Ditto
61. Archibd. Henderson	1 Dec. 75	3	Ditto
62. Mark Waycraft	13 June 77	3	Sick at Genl. Hosp
63. Joseph Seaborn	1 Feb. 77	3	Ditto
*64. Zane Rhoads		2 1/2	Sick amwell Church



<u>NAMES</u>	<u>TIME INLISTED</u>	<u>TIME ENGAGED FOR WAR YEARS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
65. Michail Bull		3	Sick At Jamestown
66. David Wall			Ditto
67. Elisha Mills	9 Nov. 77	3	Ditto
68. Thomas Pierce		2 1/2	Sick at Reading
69. Thomas Pridgion			Ditto
*70. Abraham Therrell	2 July 77	3	Sick at Princetown
71. William Jones	2 July 77	3	Sick at Brunswick
72. William Tilmon	1 July 77	3	Ditto
73. John Cummin		2 1/2	Sick at Georgetown, M
74. Solomon Jonnett	1 Feb. 77	3	his Excellencyes Guard
		Thos. Evans, Lieutenant Richd. Andrews, Ensign	



## Q U E R I E S

Prepared by Mrs. D. C. Daniel, Jr.

**IMPORTANT:** Publication of queries in this column is free to all members as space permits. Each query must appear on a full sheet of paper which must be dated and include member's name and address. Please type if possible. Queries should give as much pertinent data as possible, i. e. approximate/actual dates of birth, marriage, death, etc. Queries must refer to RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TENNESSEE FAMILIES and immediate connections. Address all correspondence relating to queries to the Society, P.O. Box 906, Murfreesboro, TN 37130.

**DEADLINE DATES:** March 31 for Summer Publication - August 31 for Winter Publication.

- No. 1 FELKER - BAILEY: Susan Felker had 2 sons in 1830 Ruth. Co. census, one named John Anderson Felker, b. 1819 TN. What is the name of the other son who married Nancy\_\_\_?\_\_\_ listed as head of household in 1850 census and relationship of Rebecca Justice living with her? Is she Bailey? Mildred Felker, 607 E. Pitkin Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004
- NO. 2 DUNAWAY: Need info on: Parents, brothers, sisters of Jacob Lee Dunaway (my grandfather) b. Ruth. Co. 1860. Parents, brothers, sisters & children of Jacob Dunaway, d. 13 July (year not given) Davidson Co., TN. Elizabeth Jane (Dunaway) Dunaway (wife of Jacob Dunaway) and her parents, brothers & sisters. Walter E. Bostick, 5332 Jackson St., North Highland, CA 95660.
- No. 3 RAINEY - RANEY: Has bible records of this family who moved from Ruth. Co. to TX. Also has info on following families: RECTOR, WILDBAHN, BROWN, MANOR, HILL, GREGG, CROCKETT. Aaron E. Landy, M.D., 14 S. Jefferson St., San Angelo, TX 76901
- No. 4 RAMSEY: Need info on: John, b. ca 1790 and James Ramsey, sons of William Ramsey, Sr., Rev. War soldier. John's son, John Johnson Ramsey, married Jane\_\_\_?\_\_\_, where? and lived in AL. 1st child, Lucinda, b.1833. Connection with Overall. Mrs. James R. Dillard, 1514 Ridge Dr., Sheffield, AL 35660.
- No. 5 DAVIS - TRIMBLE - JEFFERSON - CALHOUN: Need info on: Martha Trimble (brother, Charles Trimble) m. 1821 Ruth. Co., William Davis. Dau; Nancy, m. Woodfin; son: Joseph; dau: Mary Jane m. 8 Aug. 1844 Ruth. Co., Albert Jefferson Calhoun, moved to MS and TX, son of George W. Calhoun. Need parents: Gerge W. Calhoun of Abbeville, S.C., m. Elizabeth Trimble (half sister





of Martha). Mrs. M.E. Arnold, Rte. 2, Box 62, S., Richmond, TX 77469.

- No. 6 BARNES - STOW/E - SIMS - SMITH - MANN: Need info re: parents, brothers, sisters, children of Gabriel Barnes, b. ca.1770 m. Lucy Ann Stow in Charlotte Co., VA in 1830 census Ruth. Co. Son: Daniel T. Barnes, b. 1794 m. Ruth. Co. Susannah Sims. Need info her father, Swepson Sims, N.C.? Grandson: Charles L. Barnes b. 1852 m. Ruth Co. Eliza B. Smith. Need info her parents: Andrew Jackson Smith & Jane Mann (lived Rucker, Christiana). C. L. VanNatta, Box 2862, Rocky River, OH 44116.
- No. 7 JOHNSON - MARLIN: Need info: Ned Johnson (parents, brothers, sisters, wife), son: Burrell Perry Johnson, b. 2 Oct. 1808. Need info: Rachel ? b. 1775 and possible husband, William Marlin. Mrs. R. H. Johnson, 615 Webb St., Lafayette, LA 70501

A member of our society is a genealogist.

Mrs. Lalia Lester  
1307 W. Northfield Blvd.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130  
Tel. (615) 896-9089



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--- FOR SALE---

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Publications #1-2-4 out of print

Publication #3---Rutherford Marriage Records 1857-59; Pre-history of Rutherford Co.; Gen. Griffith Rutherford; 1803 Petition for Formation of County; Militia Commissions 1821-1830; and Rock Springs Church History \$3.00 + \$.50 postage

Publication #5---Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad; Rutherford Co. Postoffices and Postmasters; The Rutherford Rifles; and Hardemans Mill \$3.00 + \$.50 postage

Publication #6---Link Community; History of LaVergne; Fellowship Community; and the Sanders Family \$3.00 + \$.50 postage

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Articles on the following subjects

1. History of the U. S. National Cemetery at Stones River Battlefield.
2. Location of early land grants
3. History of Old Jefferson
4. 1820 census in alphabetical order
5. History of Brown's Mill
6. Early roads and turnpikes
7. List of marriages recorded by the WPA but not found by the DAR in their book on "Marriage Bonds for Rutherford Co., 1803-1850"
8. History of Ridley or Davis Mill



Three volumes of cemetery records published jointly with the Sons of the American Revolution. The cemetery records took seven years to prepare for publishing, however, additional material information is still being found and will be published at a later date. The cemetery volumes may be ordered from William Walkup, 202 Ridley St., Smyrna, Tenn. 37167.

Vol. I - - Covers the Northwest portion of the county, includes Percy Priest Lake area and parts of Wilson and Davidson Counties, 256 cemeteries with index and maps \$10.00 + \$.50 postage

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Also available from William Walkup, 202 Ridley St., Smyrna, Tenn. 37167, is a map of Rutherford County showing the roads, streams, and landowners dated 1878. \$3.50 + \$.50 postage



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