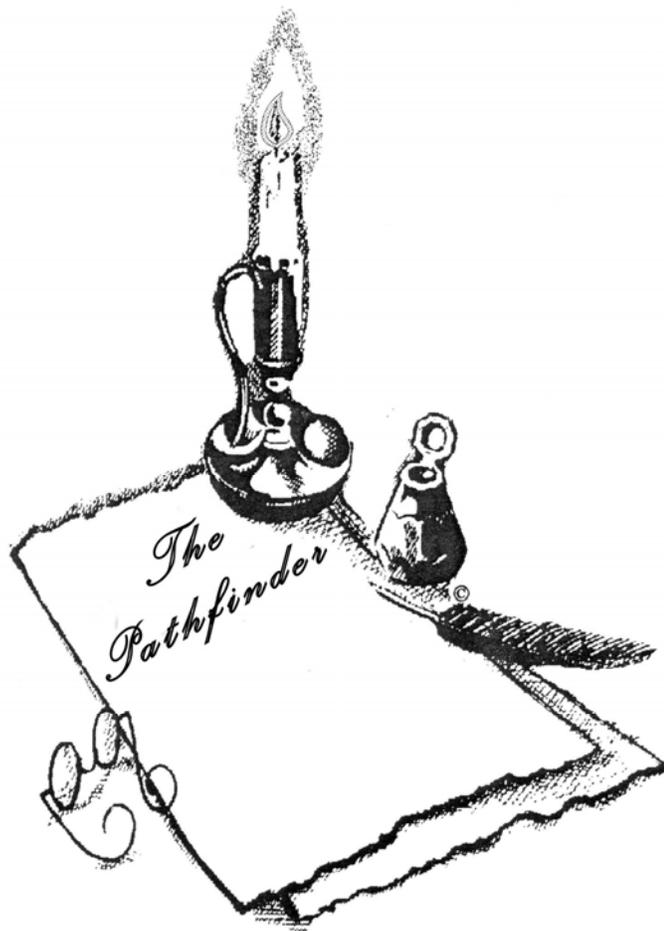


# *The Pathfinder*

A Quarterly Publication of the Grundy County Historical Society

Grundy County, Tennessee



Vol. 22 Number 1 – March 2017

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oliver Jervis

None reported this quarter.

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Sharon Nee Goodman

Thank you for participating in making this newsletter what you would like to see by sending in photographs, stories & family histories. If you would like to send information for publishing in the Pathfinder, please send to Sharon Goodman, 118 Orange Tree Lane, Georgetown, TX, 78626. Or you can email me at [sharon@snghere.com](mailto:sharon@snghere.com).

It is with great sadness I compile this issue of the Pathfinder. Having lost three tremendous supporters of the Grundy County Historical Society is quite a blow. Catherine Flury, Anna Goforth, and Ralph Thompson have left a big imprint on the history of Grundy County. We will miss them all. Read Ralph's last contribution to the Pathfinder in the March and June issues. Thank you, Ralph, for your support and encouragement over the years.

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**~CATHERINE FLURY, ANNA GOFORTH AND RALPH THOMPSON~  
IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Catherine Kilgore Flury**, 93, of Tracy City died on September 20, 2016 at The Waters in Winchester, Tennessee.

She was the daughter of C.E. Kilgore and Theona Haynes Kilgore. She was a lifelong member of Tracy City United Methodist Church where she spent many years working with church ministries and organizations. She was a loving wife, Mother, "Nanny" , homemaker, community volunteer, and historian of family, city and county.

She was preceded in death by her husband Fritz L. Flury, son Fritz Leon Flury, Jr., sister Evelyn Cunningham and brothers George and C.E. Kilgore Jr.

She is survived by her children, Linda Mostashari, Tommy Flury, Paul Flury (Lisa) and Tina Gifford (Mike); sister Ruth Roberts, brother David Kilgore (Judy); grandchildren, Ami McChesney, Shalah Mostashari, Darian Mostashari, Daniel Mostashari, Catherine Flury Johns, Stephanie Flury Kelsey, Andy Lockhart, Rebekah Parrish, Joshua Sitz, Tommy Lovell and eight great grandchildren.

**Anna Griswold Goforth**, age 100, passed away at her home on Friday, January 20, 2017. She was born in Hartford, Arkansas on January 1, 1917, a daughter of the late David M. Griswold and Anna B. Dykes Griswold. She was preceded in death by her husband, Doug Goforth; son, Carl David "Little Man" Sweeton; sisters, Bernice Gross and Ellene Griswold; brothers, David and John Griswold; granddaughter, Anna Moore; grandson, David Sweeton; nephew David Gross.

Ms. Anna was an Episcopalian and had a great love for gardening and genealogy. She was a founding member of the Grundy County Historical Society, a member of the Ladies Memorial Association, and had been a member of the Tracy City Garden Club for many years. She established a fund, Anna's Angels, to provide shoes for children in need.

Survivors include her children, Nancy (Wade) Daugherty, Katie Goforth, Mona (Karl) Moreland; daughter-in-law, Linda Sweeton; grandchildren, Mona Lee Brittingham, Thomas Moore and Claire Cowart; reat-grandchildren, Emily Hart, Stuart Douglas and Olivia Cowart; niece, Patricia Bates; nephews, Mike Gross, Gary Griswold and Ron Terry; Anna's "heart adopted" children and many beloved friends.

**Ralph Thompson** passed away on February 10, 2017 after an extended illness. He was the son of Elmer and Isabel (Scruggs) Thompson, both deceased.

He is survived by his wife, Susan (Simpson) Thompson, daughter Jennifer (Wayne) Williams, son, Jeremy Thompson, and three grandchildren, Jacob, Caroline, and Jess Williams.

Mr. Thompson was born in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee on June 27, 1947. He graduated from Tennessee Tech University in 1969 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. During his lifetime, he worked for Alcoa Aluminum, Union Carbide Nuclear, and TVA.

Mr. Thompson gave back to his community through his years of volunteer work with Emergency Services. He was a graduate of the State Police Academy and was a certified law enforcement officer. He was also a graduate and instructor at the State Fire Academy and an early member of the EMT National Registry having graduated from one of the first EMT classes in the 1970.

Most recently, he collaborated with the National Institute of Health to further ALS research.

Mr. Thompson also served several years as a Deacon at the Hixson (Clear Creek) Church of Christ and in most recent years was a member of Dallas Bay Baptist Church.

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## **BEERSHEBA ROADS, PART I**

Ralph Thompson

A visitor arriving today for the first time in Beersheba Springs, perhaps to visit the South Cumberland Natural Area or attend a conference at the Methodist Assembly, might easily suppose that the town developed around Highway 56, with the Stone Door Road leading off to the Natural Area and the Grassy Ridge branching off of it to the east. In fact, however, these are three of the most recent roads. The true history of Beersheba's roads reaches back to the earliest days of settlement in this part of Tennessee and, indeed, quite possibly, back into

American Indian times. One who knows their story and walks the roads of Beersheba often feels wrapped in history.

It is not always possible to have the specific and definitive documentation one would like for the origin and development of Beersheba roads. However, working from bits and pieces of information that can be gleaned from old deeds, hand drawn maps, and published historical research – and bearing in mind that the trails that evolved into the earliest roads generally followed the path of least resistance – it is possible to arrive at a reasonable estimate of the road system at various times.

I will assume that the reader is familiar with the general history of Beersheba such as may be found in Volume I of *Beersheba Springs, A History*, but to help the reader follow the text I have prepared three maps showing the Beersheba roads circa 1840, 1860, and 1880 respectively and will include some modern names of land owners.

In all three of the maps, an important point is the chalybeate spring. *Chalybeate*, a common word in the heyday of spring resorts, means tasting of iron. It was the discovery of this spring by Beersheba Cain in 1833 which both gave the town its name and led to its development as a spring resort. A second spring – one of good-tasting, “freestone” water – was soon discovered several hundred yards to the west. The ground around the chalybeate spring was leveled, and a substantial two-story frame spring house was built around it. But today's visitor will search for it in vain. Where was it?

We cannot pinpoint its location, though we know where it was to within a few yards. As a result of the blasting for the construction of the Highway 56 in 1927, the spring ceased to flow. The spring house was abandoned and probably washed away. Since there is now no level area anywhere near where the spring once was, probably its dirt also washed away over the nearby bluff that had been created by the blasting. Further erosion has left the mountain side just above the bluff very steep. Some of the spring's water began to come out at the level of the highway where a few years later a sandstone igloo-like structure was built. But this spring never approached in quality or quantity of water the original spring. That original spring was certainly on the mountain side above the bluff the blasting created. But it was probably also very close to that bluff and just above where the igloo now stands.

### The Road to Altamont, an Indian Trace?

Probably the oldest road in Beersheba is what is called Dahlgren<sup>1</sup> Avenue on Map 3, Spring Street on Map 2 and left unnamed on Map 1, where it is however shown by double solid lines. It may then have been called "Long's Mill Road" or the "Road to Altamont." Especially the portion now between the intersection with Highway 56 and that with Hege Avenue is of interest. This section is pointing straight to the chalybeate spring.

The map accompanying *Indian Trails of the Southeast, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnography, 192*, by Wm. E. Myer shows the Chickamauga Trace coming north from Coalmont and Gruetli and going right through Beersheba and on down into the valley of the Collins River. Although this map shows the trail running considerably east of Altamont – and thus down into the Big Creek Gulf and back up again – it seems more likely that it followed an easier route coming just a little east of where Altamont was later located and close to where Long would later build a mill, and then on into Beersheba from the southwest. It is altogether plausible that it was this trace which later became known as the Long's Mill or Hunter's Mill Road. (Hunter and Long<sup>2</sup> seem to be names of successive owners of one and the same mill, which was on the stream that makes the Blue Hole and Greeter Falls in the Natural Area. We have a stereopticon card labeled "Long's Mill" that shows a mill between the upper and lower falls at Greeter Falls. An 1892 deed<sup>i</sup> mentions the "Hunter now Greeter" property. This same deed provides at least two corners that reference the Hunter Mill Road.)

There remains in Beersheba a short stretch of what must be this road still in a fairly primitive condition. To reach it, one walks south from Highway 56 on Hunter's Mill Road. Past the end of paving, past the last residence, the road veers off about 30 degrees to the right and heads down a ravine to a bridge over the little stream at the bottom and then up the other side. The current bridge is

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1 . Charles G. Dahlgren of Natchez was the first owner of the house now called Nanhaven. In 1860, a son was born to him in that house and named John Armfield Dahlgren. According to a story passed down in the Nanhaven family, some forty or fifty years later, this Dahlgren returned to Beersheba with signs reading "Dahlgren Ave." which he placed on Spring Street. No one wished to hurt the rather pathetic fellow; the signs were left up and ultimately had their desired effect.

2 . Court records reference the Hunter Mill Road as early as the 1840s. Arthur Long was a wealthy land owner and farmer in Altamont in the 1850s and 1860s. He had died by 1868, and in 1880 John Greeter acquired the 650 acres known as the Long Mill farm which included the mill and a shop.

a steel culvert surrounded by stone. The culvert means the structure is of no great antiquity, probably the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but such a structure testifies that this was no common logging road. Here one is undoubtedly on the original Hunter's Mill Road or Long's Mill Road and, in all probability, the Chickamauga Trace.

This short stretch of road is pointing fairly close to the southern end of Dahlgren Avenue (formerly Spring Street). It may be safely presumed that they were once one continuous road. In between the two stretches, however is the Polk-Howell cottage built by Armfield. To make a nice lot for this cottage, Armfield apparently turned and straightened the old road, bringing it in roughly perpendicular to a line of his cottages – but kept the Hunter's Mill name. Thus, in summary, it is altogether plausible that the southern end of the present Dahlgren Avenue lies right on the Chickamauga Trace.

At its intersection with Hege Avenue, Dahlgren turns a bit to the west, a deviation presumably introduced when construction began at the site of the future hotel to avoid having this road slice through the site.

This road, Hunter's Mill or Long's Mill Road was the primary road to Altamont in the early 1850s. The other road to the west was identified as the Road to Dan.<sup>ii</sup> It ran from about where the present Hunter's Mill Road meets Highway 56 to Dan Springs and the Backbone Road. Later it was extended to Altamont and eventually became the route of Tennessee 56. (Like "Beersheba, "Dan" is of Biblical origin. Both are towns in Israel, but Dan is in the extreme north while Beersheba is in the extreme south. Thus the Biblical phrase "From Dan to Beersheba" means the whole of the land of Israel.)

In 1858 the General Assembly chartered the Beersheba Springs & Tracy City Turnpike Company and authorized the company to use the partly completed Altamont to Tracy City Road if it so desired. John Armfield led this company, and the new road followed the general route of Highway 56 between Beersheba and Altamont.<sup>iii</sup> The 1895 Coastal and Geodetic Survey map, however, still shows two roads between Beersheba and Altamont.

### **Roads Down the Mountain to the Collins River Valley**

Prior to the mid-1800s it is believed that there were four established trails, not necessarily roads, between the Beersheba area and the Valley. The westernmost

trail descended the mountain at Middle Ridge from what is now known as the Utah Community down to Gross' Cove. That trail eventually evolved into a wagon road. The next trail coming east was the Backbone Road that descended to the Big Spring in Gross' Cove. Because it followed the "backbone" spur that descends more gradually than the mountain side generally, this route did not need switchbacks. The next was a trail or crude road – quite possibly formerly the Chickamauga Trace – that descended the mountain from the general area directly in front of the Beersheba Hotel. This trail passed by the chalybeate spring. The fourth and least documented of the routes is a trail that descends the mountain at the end of the Grassy Ridge Road. This trail may not have developed until the Savage Gulf area started to be settled in the valley.

The primary road to Beersheba from the late 1830s until the early 1850s ascended the mountain from William Dugan's home near the mouth of Dark Hollow – now a few hundred yards to the right as one begins the ascent of the mountain on Tennessee 56. This road had approximately six switchbacks<sup>iv</sup> and was basically bounded by the St. Paul stream on the east and Dark Hollow on the west. It initially reached the top of the mountain by traveling west from the Chalybeate Springs until it reached a point that was approximately where Spring Street (Dahlgren Avenue) intersects Armfield Avenue at the west end of the Hotel.

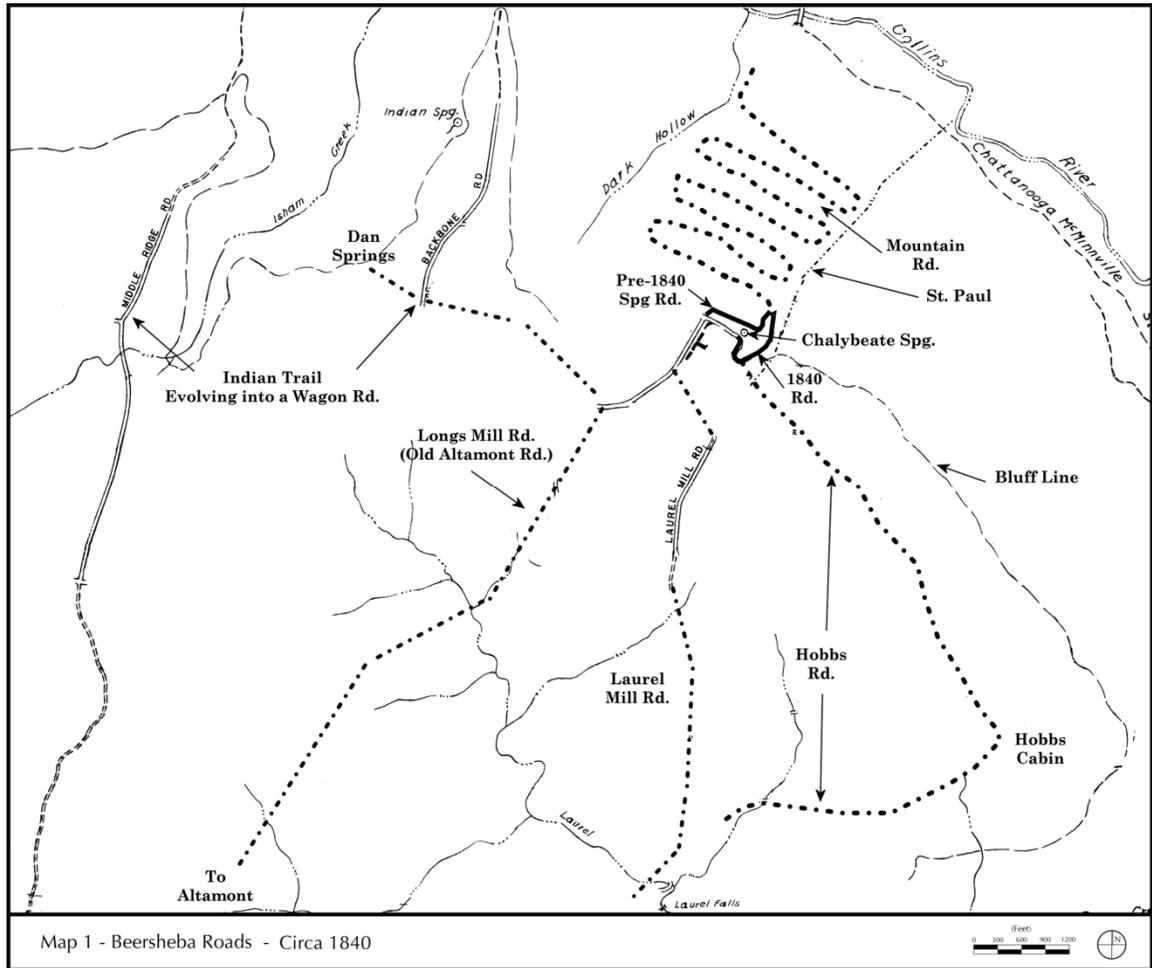
1850 era deeds show that in this period this road was rerouted at the top of the mountain. Instead of passing close to the chalybeate spring, it stayed well below the spring and then turned sharply right to come up the St. Paul Hollow and then make a backwards curve (as seen from above) to reach the top of the mountain in front of the Hotel. This road now runs past Vesper Point and in front of the 1950-vintage chapel.

In 1839 citizens of Warren, Marion, and Hamilton counties petitioned the State to authorize a road to cross the mountain at Beersheba Springs.<sup>v</sup> In 1840 a charter was granted to Allen White to open a turnpike that would begin at William Dugan's, cross the mountain by way of Beersheba, and connect with Haley's Turnpike in Sequatchie Valley.<sup>vi</sup> Almost nothing is known as to the exact route of this turnpike or if it was ever actually completed.

Certainly by 1830 some type of road existed from McMinnville to the valley below Beersheba. After all, William Dugan had a home at the foot of the

mountain when visited by the Cains in 1833. By the early 1840s a turnpike road existed up Peak Mountain obviously implying the existence of a road in the valley as well. In 1846 Grundy County authorized a new road to be built from where the road from McMinnville crossed the county line to the base of Peak Mountain.<sup>vii</sup> No doubt because of the popularity of Beersheba as a resort, in 1858 the General Assembly chartered the McMinnville & Beersheba Springs Turnpike Company with the authority to build a new road or upgrade the existing road.<sup>viii</sup>

The current street layout in Beersheba evolved in essentially three broad phases: the first being 1833 – 1856, the second 1856 – 1860 (Armfield), and the third being 1870 and later. There was a break between 1860 and 1870 due to the Civil War.



## Beersheba Streets and Roads prior to Armfield

In the first phase, prior to John Armfield's arrival, there were four roads leading out of Beersheba on top of the mountain.

- As discussed above, Spring Street (now Dahlgren Avenue) ran from the top of the mountain at the hotel to where it became the Altamont Road running by way of Long's Mill.
- The Laurel Mill Road turned east off Spring Street and ran diagonally across what later became the Cockrill lot and is now Beersheba Porcelain to the point where the current Fahery Road (formerly Laurel Mill Road) makes a sharp turn on the south side of the ice pond that is now in the roadside park. This early location of this road is only suggested when reviewing early deeds and the topography of the area prior to changes made by Armfield and later by the construction of Highway 56.
- There was a road that ran east roughly parallel to the current Grassy Ridge Road but to the southwest of it. It appears on Map 1 as "Hobbs Rd" and is referred to in early documentation as the road to the Adrian Hobbs place.<sup>ix</sup> x In 1840 Adrian Hobbs had constructed a two-room cabin at a spring near the end of the present Grassy Ridge Road.<sup>xi</sup> This road appears to have connected with the road up the mountain somewhere between the chalybeate spring and the top of the mountain, most likely in the sharp S curve a bit below where it reaches the current Vesper Point. This road ran through the area that later became the two Phillips lots (now Howell Adams). In the Phillips deed Armfield reserved this right of way.<sup>xii</sup> It continued on out to the Adrian Hobbs cabin and from there it is believed that the road turned south, with the next reference to it being from a deed for a piece of property on the north side of Laurel Falls near the present Gentle River Road.<sup>xiii</sup>

In Armfield's 1859 deed<sup>xiv</sup> transferring his property to the Beersheba Springs company, he identifies a verbal lease with Adrian Hobbs that had three years remaining. This lease covers not only the cabin on top of the mountain but permits Hobbs to clear whatever land he needs on the side of the mountain. Other sources indicate that Hobbs had a 10-acre field on the side of the mountain.

The final road that existed prior to Armfield's arrival was the one that went to Dan Springs and the Backbone Road. Beersheba Cain had her second mountain cabin at Dan Springs.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

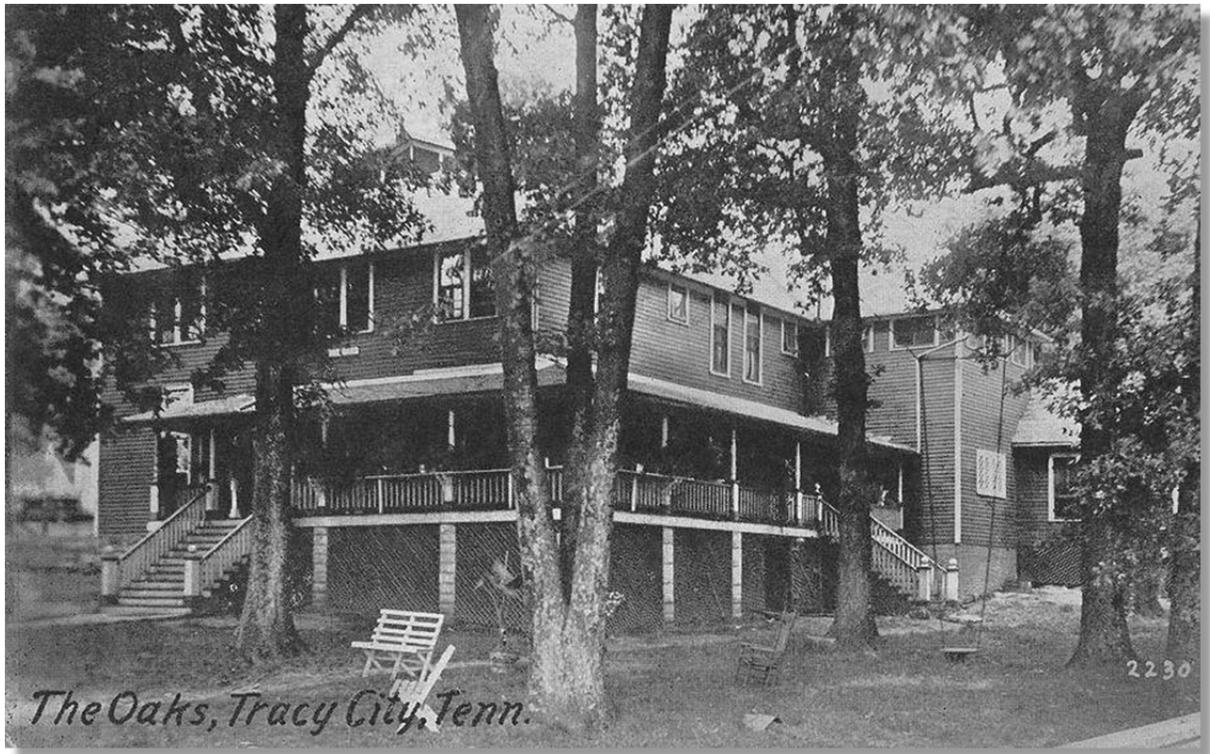
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### **CUMBERLAND OUTLOOK**

**THURSDAY AUG. 2, 1934**

#### **THE OAKS HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE ON MONDAY NIGHT**

Again Tracy City suffers from inadequate fire protection. Once more hundreds of people are summoned by fire alarms to stand helpless while thousands of dollars go up in smoke.



Monday night the Oaks Hotel, owned by L. M. Hines, burned. The fire, originating on the second floor, started about 11 p. m. and one hour later only smoking ruins remained of an investment that probably amounted to thirty thousand dollars.

The fire was first noticed by two young men who were passing and the alarm sounded. It was seen that efforts to solve the building were futile and nothing could be done other than removing as much of the furniture as possible.

Only a small amount of the furniture on the second floor was saved but much on the first floor was carried out though some of this was badly damaged.

Janelle Taylor sent this bit of information to go with the Oaks Hotel story: To my thinking The Oaks Boarding House was owned and operated by Lewis Hines, the druggist. I think he owned the land around the area of Byron D. Mayes and the big Tracy City water works lake. That is why the Hines Hole was built by him to have a swimming place for his patrons and his children.

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### GENEALOGY PROJECT

Gather photos of various family weddings and create a collage of the newly married couples on pretty scrapbook paper. Number the photos and below the photos, write their marriage information. Frame. (See last page for photo).

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### WEBB SCHOOL FOR SHIP BUILDERS

Jackie Partin

In an 1878 Grundy County deed, Wm H. Webb and wife Henrietta conveyed 1040 acres to the Webb Academy and Home for Ship Builders. They had bought the land from Peter and Rosina Staub who had bought it from C. W. Hill (a portion of his 5000 acres). It lay in the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Grundy County. I can't understand poles and degrees, so I don't know exactly where it was to be built.

The Webbs were New York folks, and we know about Peter Staub.

Obviously, Grundy County never had a Webb Academy or a home for Ship Builders.

However, Wm Henry Webb did fulfill his dream, but in his home state of New York. It seems that Peter Staub could talk anyone into anything concerning land.

**From Wikipedia:**

## History

Webb Institute of Naval Architecture was founded in 1889 by industrialist and philanthropist William Henry Webb, who had established his career as a preeminent shipbuilder in the 19th century. He recognized the increasing role of science and engineering in the field of ship design, which had long been seen as more of an art form. Webb felt that the ship designers of the future would need to be skilled in structural and mechanical engineering, and other scientific disciplines. The institute graduated its first class in 1893, and continues to educate students in naval architecture and marine engineering.

### Founding and early history



Webb's Academy and Home for Shipbuilders, Bronx, New York City (c. 1899)

On April 2, 1889, the state of New York incorporated Webb's Academy and Home for Shipbuilders as a non-profit institution. Webb had provided the Academy with an endowment presumed to be sufficient to allow the institution to be self-supporting in perpetuity. It was intended to serve not only as an educational institution for future naval architects, but also as a retirement home for aged shipbuilders.

Webb commissioned New York architect Arthur P. Jennings to design a building for the institution to be built on 14 acres (5.7 ha) of land on a bluff overlooking

the Harlem and Hudson rivers in the Bronx. Construction commenced in 1890 and was completed in 1893. The building was designed in the Romanesque style and was built of New York brownstone. It was intended to be "a romantic version of a medieval castle", with turrets, fanciful carving, and other flourishes.<sup>[2]</sup> This facility was used for 50 years.

During World War II, the institute was closely associated with the U.S. Navy as a training center for naval officers.

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**A HISTORY OF BARKERS COVE  
(SEEN ON MAPS AS BARKERTOWN)**

Charles Clifford Cordell

July, 2016

I'm Charles Clifford Cordell, the oldest child of John Andrew and Nellie Dykes Cordell. I am 86 years old, and I've lived in Barkers Cove, previously known as Barkertown, all but about 18 months of my life. It is my understanding that I am now the oldest member of the Barkers Cove Community and feel it is my obligation and privilege to record a small piece of history lest a younger generation be lost to a part of their heritage forever.

My purpose here is an effort to compile important information and the names of this community to the best of my ability and understanding. I realize I may not be correct in every detail about every family, and I apologize now for any mistake or omission I may make. Please forgive me for things such as misspellings of names as I have done the best I could from my memory and the little information I had to go on. The further purpose of this endeavor is to record the original families and history of Barkers Cove from 1945 back to its inception.

As I took note that the history of Grundy County families had been preserved to the point of publication it occurred to me that the history of Barkers Cove families was not written down in order to be preserved. I wondered why and began to ask questions and also write down all the family names as far back as I could go. I dearly love this community, and if our story is not preserved in writing the younger generations and their families will not know the history of

their people or the history of their community nor the importance they played here in Grundy County.

It has been a pleasure to recall the names and remember stories of the people that settled the area called Barkers Cove, Tennessee. A list of names will be attached to this writing.

The history of the Cove needs to be handed down so as not to be lost with the passing of those who were great American heroes such as Jack Partin who selflessly served in World War Two. Russell Lassiter Brown will be remembered as a Civil War Veteran. Details such as these need to be preserved so that these settlers and their families will be remembered for their diligence and sacrifice in bringing to be a wonderful little place called Barkers Cove. These men and women above and below listed were important and significant.

For some the places they lived are now remote and inaccessible, and the roads they travelled "to town" on are non-existent. Because of my age my feet will not take me to those places again, but I remember them well. I remember the hollows and creeks these settlers and original families lived on. I remember how far we had to walk or ride a horse or mule to Palmer to travel to Tracy City by train.

There are homes, barns and schools that no longer stand, places of lives lived. For some there are only names and dates carved into old headstones at the Brown's Chapel Cemetery that stand erect to proudly testify as to who they were. This cemetery is affectionately known as the Barkers Cove Cemetery, or even better, as Brown's Chapel Cemetery, where our families now rest, even though now with the passing of time they have the risk of being forgotten.

The area of Barkers Cove is the mass of land between Savage Creek on the north, the Standing Rock on the east, Big Creek on the south and the Dinky Line on the west.

The Dinky Line was a railroad built by the Werner Lumber Company of Tracy City, Tennessee. The NCSTL Railroad ran to Palmer from Tracy City. The Dinky Line left the NCSTL at or near Henley Switch and proceeded north crossing Savage Creek above Savage Falls. Then it turned slightly to the west crossing Meadow Creek to Cagle Knobs. It was the fourth and farthest camp established by the Werner Timber Company.

The Dinky Line Railroad begins at the L&N Railroad at or near Henley Switch crossing at Big Creek near the Cullin Savage homeplace proceeding north and crossing Savage Creek above Savage Falls but downstream from the Tate place. It proceeds north approximately one half mile and then turns westerly crossing Meadow Creek and proceeds to the vicinity of Cagle Knob, this being the fourth and last camp established by Werner. These "camps" were areas of work. Nelmon Savage once stated there was a very good spring at Cagle Knob.

Russell Lassiter Brown is buried in Brown's Chapel Cemetery. One acre of land was given to the Methodist Church South by William Sanford Brown for the cemetery. Russell L. Brown, James Scruggs and G.L. Abernathy were the trustees. The cemetery, being more than one acre, is believed by some that N.T. Cagle gave a part which very well could have been the case. He is buried there but not on the one acre that Mr. Brown gave. The deed states that the acre is located on the east side of the Chattanooga-McMinnville Turnpike Road, or better known as the Stage Coach Road, approximately five hundred yards from Jonathan Creek beginning on a double white oak tree. It now being unknown where the white oak stood, the deed stands. The deed for the cemetery is recorded at the Grundy County Courthouse. In 1996 Lonnie and Christine Stockwell and Jerry and Angeline Stockwell did gracefully give the outer perimeter of the cemetery so that we all will now know the exact boundaries of the cemetery.

These are some things I've drawn from memory that I hope will help future generations to piece together parts of their past. The names of the Barkers Cove families back to 1945 are attached. The deed from William Sanford Brown is available at the Grundy County Courthouse, or a copy at the Grundy County Historical Society.

Oscar and Rosa King, Ovie and Gene King and Monroe and Bonita King lived beside or near the Dinky Line near the Chattanooga-McMinnville Stage Coach Road.

Henry and Rhoda Fults, the father and mother of Icie Fults and Unice Fults, lived at the Hill Camp. Icie married Lee Kenner and they lived on Cordell Mountain. Unice married Lewis Kenner, and they lived in Barkers Cove. Lee and Lewis were brothers.

A Mr. Reed, whose first name is unknown to me, lived at the Reed Place and moved from there to the Stocker Place located up Savage Creek about one and a half miles from the Reed Place.

Joe Stocker lived on the south side of Savage Creek at the Stocker Farm, as did Sterlin Savage as well as J.H.H. Boyd.

Preston Tate lived at the Morton place. Preston was the father of Sexton Tate.

Russell Lassiter Brown, a Civil War veteran, was the son of William Sanford and Nancy Brown of Beersheba Springs, Tennessee. He is buried in Brown's Chapel Cemetery. According to a deed dated September 2, 1885, one acre of land was given to M.E. Church South, better known as Brown's Chapel Cemetery, by Reverend William Sanford Brown and his wife Nancy Brown.

N.T. Cagle is buried in the Brown's Chapel Cemetery. It is proposed by some that N.T. Cagle may have given a portion of the cemetery to the Barkers Cove Community as well, but this is not confirmed. He is buried on a different acreage than the one given by William Sanford Brown.

M.E. Church South had a chapel on the property where the meetings were held. It was served by William Sanford Brown of Beersheba Springs, Tennessee. He lived on Back Bone Road overlooking the Savage Gulf which is now Savage Gulf State Park. The story of his life states that he took the Old Chattanooga-Nashville Stage Coach Road through the gulf to arrive at the chapel to preach. He was an ordained minister of the M.E. Church and was known as a circuit riding preacher. He was willing to make the journey crossing the gorge to serve and meet the spiritual needs of the people of the Barkers Cove Community.

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## HILL AND MEDLEY FAMILIES

Janelle Taylor

Hugh Martin Hill (1873-1929) and wife Rhoda Frances Adams (1873-1943) lived in the Alto area of Franklin County, but several of their descendants became well known members of the Grundy County communities of Pelham, Tracy City, Coalmont, Beersheba and others.



L to R: Josie, Sam, Rachel, Ben, Mattie, Oma, Elmer, Elise, Luther, and Audie

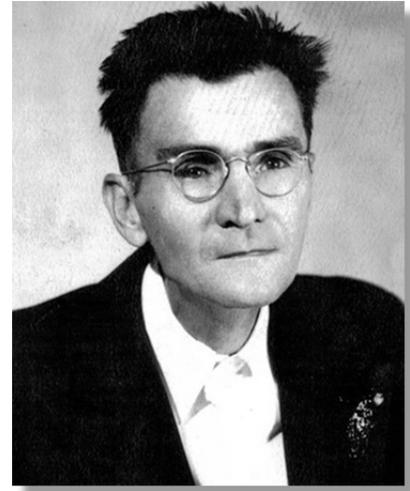
Their children were **(1)** John Malcolm Hill, 26 Nov 1894 - 10 Sept 1950, m. Denna Eleanor Sherrill (1895 – 1949).

**(2)** Josie Hill, 28 Aug 1897 - 24 July 1978, married 1) John Thomas "Tommy" Yarbrough (1894 -1918) 2) William Henry Hill b. 1892, Tommy" & Josie's only child was Mary Elizabeth "Cecil" Medley who married John Ewell "Bo" Medley. Bo & Cecil's children were Pascal "Pack" who married Willie Jo Sitz, daughter of Dan and Ovie (Nunley) Sitz. Pascal and Willie Jo's children were Danny Pascal & Timothy Medley; Johnny "Shorty" who taught school at Flat Branch and later married Mary Henley daughter of Douglas Caldwell Henley & wife Georgia Edna Garner. Shorty & Mary's children were Teresa Ann "Terri" and Patricia Faye "Patti"; Helen, married Ralph Meeks, who was the son of Cheatom and Mattie (James) Meeks. Ralph and Helen's children were Cindy, Rhonda, & Richard Meeks; Clifton who married Drucilla Clay, daughter of Emmett & Georgia Lee (Myers) Clay. Clifton & Drucilla's children were Michael, Tony, Daryl, and Marcella.; and Reeda Kaye who married Larry Shelton, son of Wayne & Mary Elizabeth (Francis) Shelton. Larry & Reeda's children were Dustin & Dera Shelton. Tommy Yarbrough's brother Arthur, lived in Tracy City and

changed the spelling of his surname to Yarber. Arthur's two daughters became well-respected teachers in Grundy County. They were Lacy Yarber and Cassie Yarber Fults.

(3) Sam S. Hill, 8 July 1898 – May 1971, married 1) Effie Hatfield 2) Adeline “Addie” Hill

(4) James Elmer Hill, 1 Jan 1901 – 18 May 1971, married Flora Belle Sherrill



(5) Audie Hill, 16 July 1903 - July 1972, became the wife of Rev. Hervey Medley, a well-known Methodist preacher who pastored churches throughout Grundy County and was at one time a street preacher in Manchester, TN. Hervey's brother Lee Medley, who lived primarily in Coffee County, was also a Methodist minister, trained at Vanderbilt University, who pastored churches in Grundy County and elsewhere. Audie and Hervey had a daughter, Ruby, who married Lannie Gilliam, Sr. a son of Oscar “Buck” Gilliam and his wife Mollie Meeks. Mollie died when Lannie and his twin brother Lancen Gilliam were very young, so they were raised by George and Mattie Meeks Hawk. Mattie was Mollie's sister. Lannie and Ruby had one son, Lannie Gilliam, Jr. “Lannie Junior”. Audie and Hervey's daughter Reba Medley married Hollis Cox and they had one son, Henry Cox, who lives in Franklin Co. Their son William Hervey Medley, Jr., 1929-1999, lived away from this area in Ft. Myers, FL. Hervey was badly stooped because of an accident in which his back was broken. He loved Chihuahua dogs, and I don't remember a time of seeing him out in public without one of his Chihuahuas.



Billy and Mattie (Hill) Gilliam

(6) Mattie Mae Hill, 9 July 1905 – 14 Aug 1979, married William “Billy” Gilliam, 1903-1990. Their children lived in and around the Valley Home Community early on but moved out to other locations as they matured. Mattie & Billy Gilliam’s children were Lorene, Leona, Betty Jo, Barbara, Cordell, Junior, Alton “Shaky”, Charles, and Eugene “Preacher” Gilliam.

(7) Luther Albert Hill ,9 Dec 1908- 9 Feb 1963, married Annie Mae Henley ,1913 – 1992, and lived much of his life in Pelham. He was a disabled WWII veteran. Luther and Annie Mae had Louise, Betty, and Rayburn Hill who taught school for many years at Tracy City Elementary. He married Virginia Cox, the daughter of James and Lula Mae (Gilliam) Cox of Valley Home Community. Mary Elizabeth, James, George and Rosie were also children of Luther and Annie Mae Hill.

(8) Benjamin F. Hill, 9 Dec 1912 – 1921, married Tressie Mae Hill (1911-2002).

(9) Oma Alton Hill, 6 Jan 1914 – 20 June 1958), married Louis Franklin Webb (1914 – 1981).

(10) Elise Nova Hill, 8 April 1916 – 16 June 1978, married Edward Phipps (1913 – 1989).

(11) Rachel Julia Hill, 18 Aug 1921 – 9 Feb 1993), married Ottis Leon Seagroves (1921-1985).

Information largely provided by Rickey Hill, Reeda Kay (Medley) Shelton and Helen (Medley) Meeks.

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## GRUNDY COUNTY, TENNESSEE MARRIAGE LICENSES,

1850-1874

**File contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by Brenda Jordan Raymond.**

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### GRUNDY COUNTY, TN (1850-1874)

Sartain, Elizabeth F.	Countiss, Robert	01 Feb 1868
Sartin, A.C. Miss	Blanton, B.	07 Nov 1870
Sartin, Aaron	Hamby, Eliza	13 Jan 1855
Sartin, Arkansas	Hamby, E.W.	21 Aug 1856
Sartin, Frank	Charles, Susan	20 Sep 1867
Sartin, Lovel D.	Patton, Eudorah Mrs.	06 Jul 1868
Savage, Beersheba	Savage, Samuel	25 Oct 1854
Savage, James L.	Killyon, Talitha	02 May 1867
Savage, Jess	Night, Martha E.	30 Jan 1854
Savage, Martha	Bost, John L.	25 Jan 1868
Savage, Samuel	Savage, Beersheba	25 Oct 1854
Schaneman, E. Miss	Vonrouhr, Leonard R.	07 Feb 1871

Schild, Margaret	Hassler, Jacob	02 Feb 1870
Schonemate, Anna	Bal, Jules	24 Sep 1874
Scott, Elizabeth	Fults, William J.	16 Aug 1859
Scott, Elizabeth P.	Sitz, Levi	16 Apr 1859
Scott, Isaac	Fitchpatrick, Minerva	18 Jan 1856
Scott, Isaac	Scott, Nancy	17 Feb 1853
Scott, J.R.	Holder, Malinda	30 Oct 1850
Scott, John	Smart, Sarah	15 Nov 1862
Scott, John	Smart, Sarah	15 Nov 1863
Scott, Louisa	Northcut, Archibald	04 Jul 1852
Scott, Nancy	Ingram, Wm.	19 Jan 1860
Scott, Nancy	Scott, Isaac	17 Feb 1853
Scott, Samuel	Bodroner, Elizabeth	14 Jul 1866
Scott, Samuel	Milligon, Elizabeth	16 Jul 1866
Scott, Samuel	Still, Heziah	02 Jan 1854
Scott, Stephen M.V.	Childres, Ellen E.	19 May 1870
Scott, Susannah	Hawk, George	16 Jan 1867
Scott, Thomas	Bone, Eliza	12 Oct 1850
Scruggs, James	Thompson, Sarah	17 May 1871
Scruggs, John	Walker, Minnie T.	24 Jan 1867
Scruggs, Lucinda	Brown, Green	13 Sep 1872
Scruggs, Nancy	Overturf, Henry	01 Jan 1857
Scruggs, Sarah	Smith, J.C.	16 Oct 1868
Scrugs, Sarah	Smith, J.C.	10 Oct 1868

Shelton, Wm.	Guess, Organ	23 Sep 1870
Sherrill, L.H.	Arnold, Jane	04 Oct 1868
Sherver, Henry	Tipton, Martha	25 Mar 1871
Shrum, Moses	Meeks, Eliza	30 May 1866
Shrum, Susan T.	Rust, Samuel R.	01 Nov 1871
Shrumb, Susan T.	Rust, Samuel R.	01 Nov 1872
Simmons, James	Mullins, Mariah	10 Sep 1852
Simmons, Martha A.	Warren, James K.	26 Dec 1872
Simmons, Martha A.	Warren, James K.	26 Dec 1873
Simmon, Mary	Dyer, Wm.	25 Jun 1859
Sims, Franky	Moffett, Add	10 May 1859
Sites, Wm. B.	Campbell, Malinda Mrs.	17 Jul 1870
Sitz, Faithy	Lowe, William P.	12 Apr 1874
Sitz, Fanny	Tate, Josial	28 Nov 1850
Sitz, George	Layne, Peggy Ann	06 Feb 1858
Sitz, Levi	Scott, Elizabeth P.	16 Apr 1850
Sitz, Nancy	Coggins, Andrew	10 Dec 1857
Sitze, Sarah	Vanderfritt, John	21 Aug 1853

\*\*\*\*

### DECEASED VETERANS OF GRUNDY COUNTY, TN

David Patton, Palmer Town Historian

After a lifelong interest in military history, and especially that which related to our Grundy County people, about twenty years ago, I began to earnestly gather the names of anyone who ever lived in Grundy County and served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

My sources were varied, from word of mouth to tombstone epitaphs and newspaper obituaries in local and out of county publications. Even I was frequently surprised to learn that someone I knew had a distinguished military record that few others knew about.

Most of the names listed here will be familiar and bring back a flood of memories while others will have been largely forgotten, but it is our fervent hope that all will be remembered with appreciation and respect by future generations of Grundy Countians as they enjoy the freedoms secured by those who came before.

Creighton, Arthur R.	Davis, George
Creighton, Dick	Davis, Glenn
Creighton, Earl Franklin	Davis, Maurice Evon
Creighton, Jack Preston	Dent, Charles Alfred
Creighton, James Lillard "Perch"	Dick, G.W.
Creighton, Joe Vernon	Dickerson, Billy Price
Creighton, Lycurgus "Curg"	Dickerson, Douglas
Creighton, Leonard "Boss"	Dickerson, Howard
Creighton, Robert M.	Dickerson, Melton
Creighton, Willie Morgan "Tom"	Dickerson, Robert Allen
Crisp, Carl Wesley "Squat"	Dickerson, Ted
Crisp, Herschel Ray	Disheroon, George
Crisp, William Allen	Disheroon, James Everett
Crocker, Albert L.	Disheroon, John Wilson
Crouch, James	Disheroon, Sammy
Crownover, Johnny Kelly	Disheroon Sebe Edward
Crutchfield, Scott M.	Disheroon, Benny Hayes
Cunningham, Billy Ray	Disheroon, Jimmy Douglas
Cunningham, Carl R. "Todd"	Disheroon, John Wayne
Cunningham, George "Mutt"	Disheroon, Ronnie Jerry
Cunningham, Harles L.	Disheroon, William "Wet Duck"
Cunningham, Kennerly	Dorsey, James William
Curtis, Arthur Roy	Doss, Leonard
Curtis, Jerry	Dove, Thomas, Jr.
Curtis, John Edward	Dove, Homer
Curtis, Paul W.	Duggan, James Alvin
Curtis, Charles Brantley	Duncan, Kelly

Custer, Goerge Alton  
 Custer, John Gordon  
 Dahl, Walter  
 Daniel, Glenn W., Sr.  
 Darnell, Miriam C. "Kay"  
 Davenport, R.C.  
 Davenport, Jerry Wayne  
 Davenport, Jimmy Ray  
 Davidson, Johnnie Thomas  
 Davidson, Martin Elbert  
 Davis, Ben  
 Davis, Bobby G.  
 Davis, Elmer  
 Davis, Elmer A. "Doe"  
 Davis, Franklin "Tubby"

Duncan, Robert Allen  
 Dunn, Paul Edward  
 Dunn, Ronald Joseph  
 Dycus, James W., Sr.  
 Dyer, J.C.  
 Dyer, Ralph  
 Dyer, Samuel  
 Dykes, Calvin  
 Dykes, Clark A.  
 Dykes, Joe Frelain  
 Dykes, Robert J.  
 Dykes, Willie E.  
 Echols, Martin Eugene  
 Edmister, Art  
 Edwards, Billy Boyd  
 Eldridge, William  
 Elizalda, Jerry Lee

\*\*\*\*

*The measure of a man's character is not what he gets from his ancestors,  
 but what he leaves to his descendants.*

\*\*\*\*

### **GRUNDY COUNTY COURT MINUTES BOOK, 1844-1855**

Transcribed "as is" by Sharon Goodman

State of Tennessee. Be it remembered that at a county court begun and held for the county of Grundy at the house of Jesse Wootten on Cumberland mountain, on the first Monday, being the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February A.D. 1848 and of the Independence of the united States the 72<sup>nd</sup> year. Present the worshipful Richard Bradford, chairman, William Dugan and James Lockheart Justices of the Quoram & c.

This day William Dugan esquire tendered his resignation as a Justice of the peace for Grundy County which was received by the court, Whereupon Robert Tate esquire took his seat as Justice of the Quoram.

Court ajornd tell cort in cors.

Richard Bradford, Cair; James Lockhart, Robert Tate

State of Tennessee. Be it remembered that at a county court begun and held for the county of Grundy at the House of Jesse Wootten on Cumberland mountain, on the first Monday being the sixth day of March A.D. 1848, and 72<sup>nd</sup> Year of the Independence of the United States. Present the worshipful Richard Bradford, chairman, James Lockhart, John Burrows and Richard I. Price, Justices & c.

This day Jeritty G. Hisewanger daughter of Jacob Hisewanger deceased late of the county of Lauderdale, Tennessee, and infant under the age of twenty one Years, aged over fourteen year, came into open court, and chose William Cunningham her Guardian Whereupon the court appointed the said William Cunningham Guardian of the Said Jeritty G. Hisewanger, who entered into bond with security conditioned as the law directs, and took the oath prescribed by law for Guardians, and was thereupon admitted to exercise the duties of Guardian of the Said Jeritty G. Hisewanger.

This day the Clerk of this Court Elect, towit, Reuben P. Webb, came into open court and with John B. Webb, E.J. Hollins, James Sartain, John M. Morrow, Philip Roberts, William Armstrong and Benjamin Layne, his security who acknowledged their bond conditioned as the laws directs, Whereupon the said R.P. Webb, took the oaths prescribed by law for clerks and was thereupon admitted to exercise the functions of his office.

This day Philip Roberts the Sheriff Elect came into open court, with John M. Morrow, E.J. Hollins, James M. Sheid, L.D. Tucker, James Sartain, J.B. Webb, R.P. Webb, C.T. Lowe, A.S. Goodman, and Samuel Burrows, and acknowledged their bond conditioned as the law directs, and took the oath prescribed by law for Sheriff and was thereupon admitted to exercise the functions of his office as Sheriff.

This day William J. Calhoun, the Register Elect came into open court with John B. Webb, C.T. Lowe, Samuel Burrows, S.P. Goodman, Philip Roberts, John M. Morrow, James Sartain, and E.J. Hollins, his securities came into open court and acknowledged their bond conditioned as the law directs, and took the oath prescribed by law for Register and was thereupon admitted to exercise the functions of his office.

This day Hosa Jones, S.P. Goodman, L.D. Tucker, Davidson Tate, Samuel Burrows, Michael G. Stump, constables Elect, came into open court and entered into bond conditioned as the law directs, and took the oath prescribed by law

and was thereupon admitted to exercise the functions of their office as constables of Grundy County. Court adjourned until court in course.

Richard Bradford, James Lockhart, John Fults

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**GRUNDY COUNTY TENNESSEE SPECIAL CENSUS RECORDS,  
1850-1880**

Compiled by Charles Sherrill – Nashville, TN, 1996 / Used with permission

\*unless otherwise noted, crops mentioned below are in bushels.

**1870 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS OF GRUNDY COUNTY**

**PAGE 13, DIST 11, TRACY CITY**

**Hargis**, J.G.- improved acres, 10; woodlands, 40; cash value of farm, \$150; working oxen, 2; value of livestock, \$100; Indian corn, 150; peas & beans; 6; Irish potatoes, 30; sweet potatoes, 30; all produce, \$400; farm machinery, \$10; market garden produce, \$60.

**Parmley**, S.R.- improved acres, 7; woodlands, 700; cash value of farm, \$1500; milch cows, 2; working oxen, 4; sheep, 6; swine, 15; value of livestock, \$200; Indian corn, 200; Irish potatoes, 50; butter, 70 lbs.; all produce, \$450; tobacco, 50 lbs.

**Meeks**, Felix- improved acres, 16; woodlands, 184; cash value of farm, \$800; asses & mules, 1; milch cows, 2; working oxen, 2; sheep, 20; swine, 10; value of livestock, \$200; Indian corn, 200; wool, 35 lbs.; Irish potatoes, 35; orchard produce, \$30; butter, 75 lbs.; home manufactures, \$60; animals slaughtered, \$125; all produce, \$600; farm machinery, \$15; wages paid, \$25.

**Summers**, B.F.- improved acres, 40; woodlands, 1500; cash value of farm, \$2000; milch cows, 2; other cattle, 5; swine, 26; value of livestock, \$150; Indian corn, 300; oats, 75; Irish potatoes, 70; sweet potatoes, 20; butter, 65 lbs.; honey, 85 lbs.; animals slaughtered, \$60; all produce, \$475; rye, 10; tobacco, 30 lbs.

**Haynes**, E.M.- improved acres, 40; woodlands, 110; cash value of farm, \$1200; horses, 4; milch cows, 4; working oxen, 2; other cattle, 6; sheep, 40; swine, 75; value of livestock, \$675; Indian corn, 250; wool, 120 lbs.; Irish potatoes, 50; sweet potatoes, 25; butter, 125 lbs.; home manufactures, \$90; animals slaughtered, \$325; all produce, \$960; farm machinery, \$150.

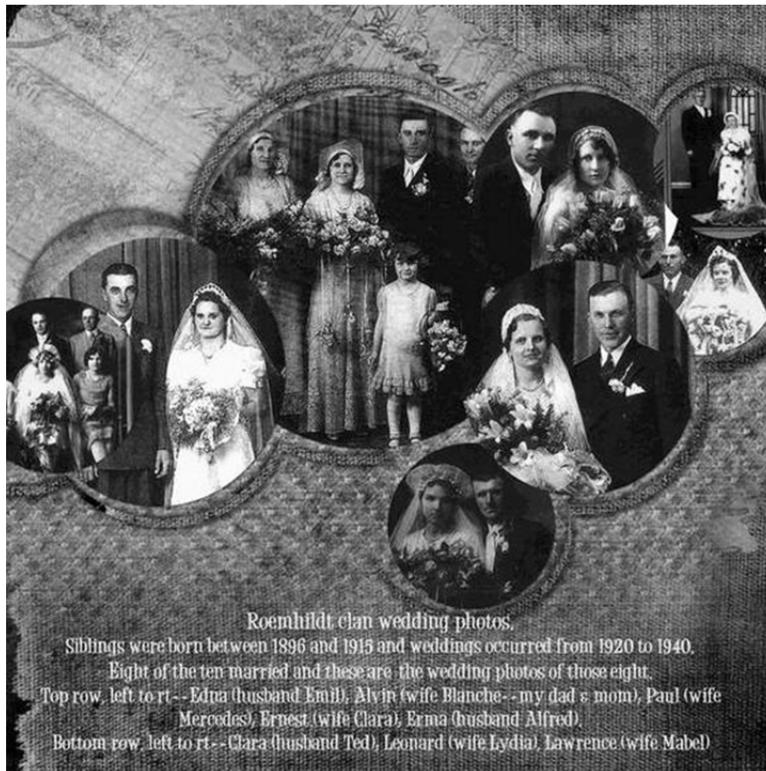
**White, Catharine-** improved acres, 15; woodlands, 285; cash value of farm, \$1000; asses & mules, 1; milch cows, 2; working oxen, 2; other cattle, 2; sheep, 15; swine, 15; value of livestock, \$300; oats, 100; wool, 30 lbs.; Irish potatoes, 100; butter, 75 lbs.; wax, 6 lbs.; honey, 150 lbs.; home manufactures, \$25; animals slaughtered, \$100; all produce, \$525; farm machinery, \$25; wages paid, \$45.

**Law, John A.-** improved acres, 30; woodlands, 210; cash value of farm, \$600; horses, 2; milch cows, 2; working oxen, 2; other cattle, 10; sheep, 23; swine, 16; value of livestock, \$475; Indian corn, 150; wool, 19 lbs.; Irish potatoes, 175; butter, 80; honey, 50 lbs.; animals slaughtered, \$125; all produce, \$650.

**PAGE TOTALS:** improved acres, 342; woodlands, 10318; cash value of farms, 19950; horses, 7; asses & mules, 3; milch cows, 29; working oxen, 18; other cattle, 34; sheep, 114; swine, 236; value of livestock, \$3258; Indian corn, 1440; oats, 175; wool, 304 lbs.; peas & beans, 6; Irish potatoes, 835; sweet potatoes, 75; orchard produce, \$55; butter, 1015 lbs.; wax, 6 lbs.; honey, 285 lbs.; home manufactures, \$175; animals slaughtered, \$735; all produce, \$5635.

### THIS ENDS THE 1870 SPECIAL CENSUS; JUNE ISSUE BEGINS THE 1880 SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL CENSUS

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- i Clark to Parmly Deed, Book K Page 205.
- ii Grundy County, Tennessee Deeds, Book C – Page 224, French to Armfield, December 1854.
- iii *Acts of the Tennessee General Assembly*, Chapter 40, Section 7, 1858, 60-64
- iv USGS Sewanee, Tennessee Map, 1892
- v Petition - State of Tennessee, 1839, Number 17

vi *Acts of the Tennessee General Assembly, 1840, Chapter 149, 241*

vii *Beersheba Springs, A History, Volume III, Page 22.*

viii *Acts of the Tennessee General Assembly, 1858, Chapter 120, Section 30, 308-309*

ix *Deeds, Book G – Page 275, Clark to Hege, 1872.*

x *Deeds, Book U – Page 414, Creighton.*

xi *Southern Coal Iron & Railroad Company v. F. R. Schwoon, Court Deposition, Virgil Hill.*

xii *Book D – Page 5, Armfield to Phillips, 1857.*

xiii *Deeds, Book U – Page 295, Parmly to Brown.*

xiv *Deeds, Book D – Page 487, Armfield to Beersheba Springs Company, 1859*

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### SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Grundy County Historical Society meets semi-annually (June and December) at the Heritage Center. Meetings are normally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday unless otherwise announced. These meetings are open to anyone with an interest in the history of the region.

### MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$30.00 and include delivery of The Pathfinder electronically by email. Paper copies of The Pathfinder delivered by U.S. Postal Service, are an additional \$15.00, for a total of \$45.00. Membership is for the calendar year and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### EDITOR

The Pathfinder is published quarterly by the GCHS. The Society welcomes articles submitted for publication. Contact Sharon N. Goodman for submission policy at [sharon@sngwhere.com](mailto:sharon@sngwhere.com). Material published is the responsibility of the person submitting the item and is subject to editing and revision.

### QUERIES & RESEARCH

Queries are free. Please be brief. Submit by e-mail to Janelle Taylor at [jcoats@cafes.net](mailto:jcoats@cafes.net) or send on a 3"x5" card to the Grundy County Historical Society's address, Attn: Janelle Taylor. The Historical Society will perform quick lookups at no charge. Further research will be performed at a rate of \$10 per hour plus the cost of copies at \$.15 per page plus the cost of postage and handling. Contact [jcoats@cafes.net](mailto:jcoats@cafes.net) with queries.

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P.O. Box 1422  
Tracy City, TN 37387**

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