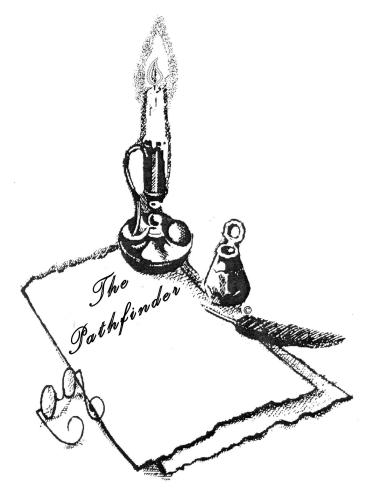
The Pathfinder

A Quarterly Publication of the Grundy County Historical Society

Grundy County, Tennessee



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Oliver Jervis

Pelham Valley and extending west into Franklin County and beyond was the upper or northernmost reaches of the cotton plantation region of the pre-civil war South. For example, according to the 1850 census the largest landowner in the Pelham area was Alexander E. Patton (1800-1879) with 1,948 acres. He also is recorded to have owned 31 slaves. Pelham was a prosperous agricultural region with a significant African American slave population. When the Civil War ended slavery, the African American former slave population remained as a free community with a school and church.

With the so called second founding of The University of the South in 1868 an African American community developed at Sewanee. African Americans from the Pelham community were drawn there. Included in the connections were members of the Kennerly family and Willie Six Sims, the renown Sewanee football team trainer, who was succeed by John Kennerly.

In Tracy City and Coalmont African American communities developed. These free African Americans were drawn to those coal mining towns to work in the mines and to tend the coke ovens. James Nicholson reports in his Tennessee County History Series <u>Grundy County</u> "About 20 to 25 black men provided much of the labor at the coke ovens" in Coalmont.

Nicholson also reports that there had been 436 African Americans in Grundy County in 1898. He further advises that 39 families, most of them in Pelham Valley, were numbered in a relief survey as late as 1935; however, no African Americans lived in Grundy County after about 1960 until recent years.

Dr. Woody Register, the Francis S. Houghteling Professor of American History at The University of the South and Director of Sewanee Project on Slavery, Race and Reconciliation, will address our Annual Meeting on June 8, 2019 on *The Powers of New Voices: Learning from African American History on the Mountain*. At that meeting he will be a candidate for election as Director from Community to our Board of Directors. He has agreed to work with us on a study of African American communities on the plateau.

If readers of this article have information, photographs, newspaper articles, other writings, memorabilia or stories about any of the African American communities on the plateau, please contact me at the Heritage Center; telephone (931) 592-6008, email history @blomand.net. We are particularly interested in chronicling the origin, life and times, and disappearance of these communities.

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.

MOFFAT TO MONTEAGLE - WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Oliver Jervis

The origin of the name of the town, Monteagle, stems from the names of the first two hotels, Monteagle Health Resort and Mont Eagle Springs Hotel.

The town had first been named Moffat Station after John Moffat nailed a sign, "Moffat", on a tree alongside the Mountain Goat railroad tracts owned and operated by Tennessee Coal and Railroad Company. The railroad company designated the place Moffat Station and established it as a stop. On January 18, 1871 Moffat Station was approved as a post office by the postal authorities. On October 15, 1874 the name was shortened to Moffat.

Monteagle first appears in the name of Monteagle Health Resort opened in 1875. It has been speculated that a friend of John Moffat and or his wife, Lydia Landon Moffat, from the period of their residence in Canada, whose name was Monteagle, may have visited Moffat, been impressed with it and even may have become an investor in the health resort that bore the Monteagle name. Be that as it may, upon the cession of efforts to open The Moffat Collegiate and Normal Institute, the building operated as Monteagle Health Resort became a part of Mont Eagle Springs Hotel.

The organizers of the Mont Eagle Springs Hotel petitioned the postal authorities in Washington to change the name of the town from Moffat to Mont Eagle. They stated in a brochure published to promote the hotel:

"Recently the property was purchased by a company of gentlemen, and the name of the place, for the sake of euphony and appropriateness, was, by permission of the Washington authorities, changed from Moffat to Mont Eagle."

The name change occurred January 12, 1881, a few months before the opening of the hotel. Thus Moffat passed into history. Not all were pleased with the event. In The Daily American, Nashville February 17, 1881, edited and published by Arthur St. Clair Colyar, the following letter signed, "Pioneer of 1867 appeared:

"In the Banner of the 29th there appeared an article headed "Picturesque Tennessee", in the course of which the village of Moffat was repeatedly alluded to as Mont Eagle Springs, a name not to be found on the maps, and wholly unauthorized by any sense of justice to the founder, Prof. John Moffat.

Prof. Moffat made his appearance on this plateau over ten years ago; purchased a tract of five thousand acres of land, erected a saw-mill and temporary buildings, indicative of further progress. Soon he was made Commissioner of Immigration and drew much population and wealth to the state. By his co-operation there were established a ladies college and a spacious hotel, the latter as a summer resort, and of which he became sole owner. Himself and the immigrants soon enlarged the village to an incorporated shoe factory, a church, stores and many convenient dwellings, amount which two or three may be classed as elegant.

A conflict of titles brought dismay to the residents of the town, and an accident to Prof. Moffat's person resulted in such nervous exhaustion that any further progress in his plans was, for the time, out of the question.

His plans lying dormant, and amid the convulsions that followed, Prof. Moffat sought other fields of usefulness for the purpose of recuperating his energies and his fortune, which from the many flattering notices of the press, are a consummation.

With renewed energies he expects to return to the scenes of his former efforts, and he will find that not only has the hotel passed from his ownership, but even his plans are being carried out by an incorporated company, which, not being satisfied with the prospective profits of his invention, seek to take from him the honor of his good name by changing the name of the town, which had he not other honors as bright, would make him poor indeed.

The popularity of the watering place is most gratifying to Prof. Moffat and his family, but the effort to change the name of the village of Moffat to Mont Eagle Springs will meet with but little favor on the plateau, and though the changed name may be attractive to invalids and tourists, they will not fail to perceive its injustice and they with the residents here will

reiterate, "Honor to whom honor is due!" As heretofore, they will continue to refer to Mont Eagle Springs as a locality, and will, I predict, protest the calling of the village any other name than Moffat.

Enthusiasm, associated with poplar response, conceives and produces great enterprises and the production is oftentimes subject to fatal ills. Then it is, vampire-like tact, and not talent, reaps the reward, and this is the history of many useful inventions. Let talent, and not tact, have the prominence — the name of the village on the plateau is Moffat, and by the light which the American gives, shall remain Moffat!

'Who steals my purse steals trash, But he that filches from me my good name, Robs me of that which not enriches him, And makes me poor indeed."

It is likely that the name of Monteagle was appropriated from the name of the predecessor hotel, Monteagle Health Resort, but modified into two words. The reason for the modification is unknown, but local speculation has given rise to the notion that the name adopted refers to eagles soaring over the mountain. The name of the town remained two words, Mont Eagle, until October 1, 1925 when the name was contracted into one word, Monteagle.

The person for whose honor the name was expropriated is lost in history but not quite the honorable name it replaced.

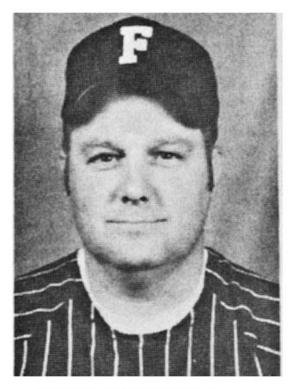
THE SAGA OF BILLY FRENCH THOMAS, PART II ("TEMPO" MONTHLY PUBLICATION, NOV. 2, 2005)

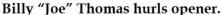
Jerry Wayne Davenport and Russ Buchan

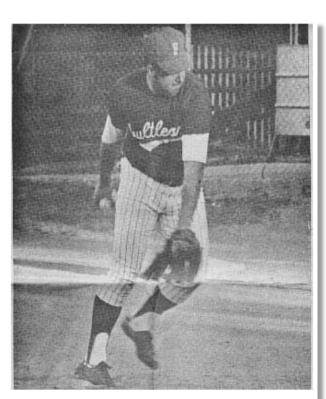
In 1970 he made Tennessee state tournament history when he pitched the first perfect game ever in the tournament. The Oilers came in fourth in the tournament even though they had come in third in each of the three previous years. After three seasons he returned to Ashland where he played softball from 1971-76. "Ashland has always been my favorite place by far," he said, "It's such a fine sports town, and it's the closest thing to southern living as you'll find outside of the south. The people are so friendly."

After Billy returned to the Faultless Rubber co. lineup in 1971, he posted records of 19-5, 24-6, 15-6, 11-3, 22-7, and 13-4. His career record with Faultless showed

a winning percentage of 77.1. In all, he worked about 2,000 innings for them while averaging about one strikeout per inning. Billy participated in four Ohio state tournaments, 12 East Central Regional and in three national tournaments. He was selected All-State four times in Ohio and Tennessee, selected All Regional five times, and East Central Regional Most Valuable Player in 1966. Billy's estimated lifetime pitching record in Ohio is 350 wins that include 14 nohitters and five perfect games. He recorded a phenomenal lifetime batting average of .363.







Billy is ready to pitch.

Vi Orlowe French spent several years keeping scorecards for baseball teams during the last years of her softball career, and it became her goal to become the first woman umpire. She managed to get on as a relief baseball umpire and later became a fulltime baseball umpire. She finally succeeded in getting what she really wanted: to umpire fast pitch softball. She and Edgar French were the first two fast pitch softball umpires at Motlow College near Tullahoma, Tennessee. The couple still had a bicycle built for two that they frequently rode around Tullahoma with the still unaware Edgar riding up front pedaling with Vi in back, facing backward and waving to friends and neighbors. Vi is still alive and lives in Cleveland, Ohio. Edgar was a superintendent at American Steel and

Wire before he retired. Billy retired as a fast pitch softball player in November of 1976 at age 43. "I didn't feel I was washed up," he stated, "and if it wasn't for all that travel I would've like to pitch for a couple more years." He explained his decision to retire because he didn't want to be remembered as one of those players "who didn't know when to quit" and hung on too long. "It's better to quit too early than too late. The tendency is to play a lot longer than you should. It's a hard decision to quit when you enjoy the game as much as I do," he emphasized. But Billy was not through with softball. In 1977, he was named Ohio umpire-in-chief and conducted more than 50 clinics a year around Ohio to help softball players, managers and umpires better understand the game. In 1981 he conducted three weeks of umpire clinics in Italy where softball is played under the same rules as in America. "People here have watched softball or baseball and can recognize what's going to happen. The Italians had never played the game and didn't react the way Americans would react." In this country there are arguments, but teams and umpires have mutual respect. "Not so in Italy," Billy states, "There's a mortal conflict between managers and umpires. The umpires anticipated arguments but not to position themselves to make calls. The sequence was usually the umpire would make an out-of-position call, immediately face the batter's dugout and wait for the manager to race toward him screaming. The two would get face to face yelling until one would grab the hands of the other and neither could talk any more. The argument was over." But the Italian umpires eventually learned to get themselves into the proper positions to make calls. In 1982 Billy was promoted to the position of Manager of Rubber Manufacturing at Faultless where he stayed until he retired from the company.

Billy had been hard of hearing for years and was finally persuaded to get a hearing aid. He said the first thing he did after the hearing aid was installed was to go to a restroom. "Wow!" he said, "Man I thought that I had just walked underneath Niagara Falls!" Time has not diminished his puckish sense of humor. In 1986 Billy was inducted into the Fast Pitch-Slow Pitch Ohio Hall of Fame in Hamilton, Ohio. "It was quite an honor," he said about the induction ceremony. "What made it special was that my whole family was able to be there. My mom came up from Tennessee to join us." Today Billy, retired and living in Smyrna, Tennessee, reflects on fast pitch softball, "Hitting a moving ball with a small stick is still the hardest of anything in the world of sports, whether it is a baseball traveling at 90 miles an hour from 60 feet away or a soft ball traveling at 100 miles an hour from 46 feet. And hitting a fast-pitched softball (from that

distance) might be the hardest of all." After he retired from playing, the number of teams dwindled but had better players, the "weak sisters" having folded. Billy noted, "The athletes keep getting bigger, stronger and fast, and they keep getting better and better." Billy really perked up when asked about the rise of women's fast pitch softball. "I think that fast pitch softball for women is the greatest thing to happen in sports," he asserted and added, "The quality of women's fast pitch softball today is about where the men were 30 years ago and improving. Almost like the men, they keep getting a little bigger, much stronger and faster, and they keep getting better and better." Billy was on the Olympic Selection Committee that picked 15 women players to go to the first year of the Pan American games. He snorted and expressed disgust and disappointment that women's softball has been taken from the Olympics. "The women are more dedicated to the sport than the men. And they don't argue or bicker—they just tell the umpire when a bad call is made and get on with the game," he stated. When Billy French Thomas finally retired from active involvement, the world of fast pitch softball lost an extraordinary set of talents and a fine southern gentleman.

(Note: Published with the permission of Billy French Thomas, The Grundy County Herald and Russ Buchan---Jackie Layne Partin)

ALL THINGS MONTEAGLE

Jackie Layne Partin

One might ask, "Why Monteagle?" The first seventeen years of my life Monteagle, Tennessee simply was my dot on the map, my home! My earliest memories are floating as zephyrs around the little town, around King Street, around a little house on the right at the top of the first large hill. Now that I am nearing the winter of my life, a drive through Monteagle makes seeing my hometown difficult; it has changed, or shall we say, been swallowed by the encroaching outside world. Progress? In one way—maybe, in another, the wiping away of memories, a photo album of what once existed. Drift back with me, before our births, before our town, and find some history that possibly has hidden itself from us.

Today in 2017, we may have small stands of virgin timber about which only a whisper can be heard. There remain a few beautiful, undisturbed areas around

our plateau where one might get the feel for what it was like when only the American Indian traveler or hunter and the lone Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett-type character came across our little space. What gave this southwestern foothill of Appalachia a breath of life before the railroad forced its way east from "Old Coal Bank," present day St. Andrews area near Sewanee, Tennessee?

We must move back, way back, way, way back in time until we get into the deep woods and rock shelters of the Cherokee Indian lands. Then come the times spent being part of White, Warren, Franklin, and Marion counties, then dealing with large land grants and heirs of those grants, then the moving of the Marion County boundary making Grundy County part of our area, then finally home, Moffat, our tiny little village on top of the lower Cumberland range. Moffat evolved on that narrow ridge where one could walk from the northern bluffs to the southern bluffs in less time than it took our gg--grandmothers to wash and hang their first wash kettle of Monday morning's laundry, or our gggrandfathers to gather the makings for the first moonshine mash of the week. They, the places listed, shared bits of land and history to help us get to where we are today. By the time our village was founded in 1870, the journey had covered many years of wheeling and dealing, sometimes disingenuous—removal of the Indians, stumbling and cheating through land grants, poles, chains, creeks, branches, bluffs and valley, (oh, those crazy land grants), and at other times, ingenuity backed by educated planning and just plain hard work.

Bostick Place

On our current Monteagle maps, we can spot a road named Bostick Ave. that turns right off Parker Street and makes a loop of sorts. John Green Bostick and his son Tandy Clark Key Bostick and several others, accepted the land grant offer from the State of Tennessee and acquired the maximum individual allowance of 5,000 acres (unless one's name was Samuel B. Barrell), portions of which spread on top of our mountain, on bluff sides, and in the valley to the North known as Pelham Valley, Coffee County at the time. In J. G. Bostick's will of October 4, 1856, stated as "Item 5," we read, "This is my will and desire and I hereby give and bequeath unto my son William Bostick (after the death of my wife Eliza) all my land lying in Grundy County, Tennessee." John G. Bostick (1784-1857) was buried in the Winchester Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee, but graves were destroyed and the cemetery desecrated years ago. An attempt to put "Humpty Dumpty" together again seldom works in an old cemetery; it simply makes those living feel slightly better. That bit of information was

thrown in because he and others predated our town founder's interest in our little piece of Tennessee.

William Bostick obviously inherited his father's Grundy County land after 1844, the year the new county was formed. Remember that Grundy land once belonged to Warren, Franklin and Marion counties at different times. When the grants were entered, that portion of land that became known as Monteagle lay partially in Franklin and Marion Counties, but when John Green Bostick died, his remaining, unsold, land was in Grundy County. At the time, Grundy County was not part of the particular land we came to know as Monteagle. It remains a little confusing since the land entries of the Bosticks were made in Franklin County 1837. Tandy's grant, entered on Feb. 26, 1838, covered a portion of Franklin County (at that time), crossed Hollingsworth Trace where the stage traveled in 1838, cornered his father's grant on the bench of the mountain, ran south of Colquitt's Spring where there was an old mill—all being land obviously tied to the fringe of our mountain ridge. William Thompson also had grant land coming together with the Bostick land; the Monteagle Cumberland Presbyterian Church cornered in with Thompson/Bostick entries, and the Thompson land shared a boundary with the MSSA acreage.

To impress upon the reader just how confusing land deals can be, please read the following note, then do as I did and take another read: Republican Banner Steam Press—Aug. 7, 1858, "There will be a grand pic-nic at Tracy City in Franklin county on next Wednesday, the 11th inst. The object is to give everybody a chance to examine the site selected for the University of the South. Many distinguished men from Southern States will be at Tracy City and it is expected that it will be an unusually interesting occasion. There will be an immense multitude there and the preparations to receive them are on the most liberal scale. Tracy City is in the neighborhood of Beersheba Springs, and is accessible by railroad from Nashville. We hope our city will be well represented on the occasion..." One would suppose that the writers for the Republican Banner in 1858 would have known in what county Tracy City laid— Marion or Franklin? This possibly is one of those county line movements—so fast that the tax collectors couldn't keep up with the constituents of each county.

Note: Colquitt Spring was near the town of Moffat, Henley land, Austell tract, and the Moffat Mountain Road. This would be somewhere below the MSSA on the northern side of the Monteagle plateau. This information can be found in a deed (Book G—pg. 370) made to William Levan by John and Lydia Moffat. Susan (Layne) Levan, aka Sukey Levan, William's wife, lived just above what is

now known as the horseshoe curve on Hwy. 41. I'm guessing that Colquitt Spring was between Sukey's land and the back of the Assembly. And because of the water table changes throughout the years, the spring may be lost to us forever.

Added Notes Concerning the Mountain District Grants and Bosticks' Deeds

"Mountain District: made on the basis of Tennessee Acts, 1827, Ch. 4 which established a register's office in Sparta for new region called the Mountain District; this new land office apparently replaced those of the old Third Surveyor's District, which were closed; purchase grants at \$.01 to \$.125 per acre up to 5,000 acres; these grants covered counties of White, Franklin, Warren, Marion, Bledsoe, Overton, Fentress, and Jackson and were designed to dispose of remaining surplus public land on the Cumberland Plateau (and, from the state's standpoint, get it onto the tax rolls); this district, perhaps more than any other, was subject to gross fraud and speculative abuse in the issuance of grants." (One type of land grant in Tennessee)

Ms. Lillian Ey, a great researcher, sent me some local grant information for John G. and Tandy Bostick, plus Bazel Summers grant entry.

For John G Bostick (Bosticks on the TSLA database) Grant NO. 6586 for 5000 acres on Jan 8, 1839 Entry 2315 on Feb 14, 1837 Franklin County Surveyed Nov 26, 1838

Mentions headwaters of Elk River, an old mill, Hollingsworth Trace (I have learned that some entries refer to Hollingsworth Trace as "the big road"), and something that looks like Colquits or maybe Calgrets Spring.

Mountain District Grant Book L Page 197

For Tandy Bostick
Grant NO. 6590 for 5000 acres on Jan 8, 1839
Entry 2316 on Feb 14, 1837 Franklin County
Surveyed Nov 26, 1838
Mentions same landmarks as John Bosticks plus John Bosticks grant.
Mountain District Grant Book L Page 198

For Bazel Sumers

Grant NO. 8806 for 2000 acres on Oct 20, 1842 described as located in Coffee County

Entry 2220 on Oct 4, 1836 Franklin County Surveyed Dec 6, 1839

Mentions only waters of Elk River and the rock house Mountain District Grant Book T Page 59-60

CIVIL WAR VETERAN, AGED 91, ACTIVELY OPERATES 500-ACRE FARM IN FR ANKLIN COUNTY

John Lipscomb, Beans Creek, is the oldest Farm Bureau member of which we have any knowledge. He was born February 4, 1838, making him ninety-one years old this year.

He joined the Confederate army and was mustered into the 41st Tennessee regiment organized by General Ferguson, and served under Captain Gregg. From injuries received in this war he lost one of his eyes.

After returning from the army, Mr. Lipscomb set about to rehabilitate his old home and renew his farm operations. He has been actively engaged in farming since that time and at present he may be seen almost any day riding horseback on his farm. He looks after the many routine details in the operation of 500-acre farm.

Mr. Lipscomb reared a family of nine children (four boys and five girls)—a tenth one dying in infancy.

In addition to his farming operations, he used to run a tan yard acting on the origin making shoes and harness. He also ran a mercantile business and made harness for many years. At the time the N. C. Railroad Company ran their line through Beans Creek,

Mr. Lipscomb became agent and served continually in this capacity for thirty-one years.

Mr. Lipscomb has kept a diary for the past twenty years and is able to recall from memory the relative productions and conditions surrounding the agricultural operations during his time.

In commenting on the life and activity of Mr. Lipscomb, Captain Jack Skidmore, our ninety-year-old ex-county surveyor and legislator, states that Mr. Lipscomb's whole life is worthy of the emulation of the highest type of citizenship and that he has always been found to foster the activities destined for the good of his fellow man.

Where Mr. Lipscomb now lives is approximately one mile from the home of the famous Davie Crockett, who won national recognition for his success in fighting Indians. It was Mr. Crockett who coined the phrase, "Be sure you're right—then go ahead." Mr. Lipscomb was acting on this basis when he signed the original farm bureau contract five years ago. At the meeting last January, for reorganization, Mr. Lipscomb was present and signed one of the many renewal contracts.

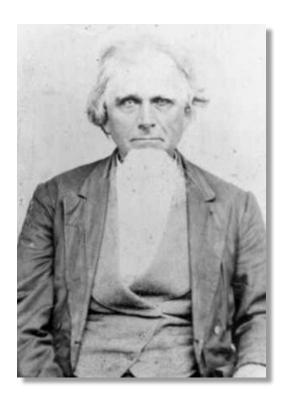
Finding the path our ancestor walked Is not always easy but the rewards Of the journey make the effort worthwhile.

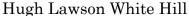
HUGH LAWSON WHITE HILL

Contributed by Janelle Taylor

U.S. Congressman. He graduated from Cumberland College, taught school for a short time and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was a member of the Tennessee State House of Representatives, (1837-39, 41). In 1847, he was elected as a Democrat to the Thirtieth Congress, serving until 1849. Not a candidate for re-nomination, he resumed agricultural pursuits until his death.

Virginia's dates are born 1823 and died 1908.







Virginia Hill

COPY OF AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY WHICH WAS BEGUN BUT NEVER FINISHED BY H. L. W. HILL (HUGH LAWSON WHITE HILL---1810-1892—my entry—Jackie Layne Partin)

I have always, I think, had a wholesome dread of being considered an egotist, but as my oldest living child seems badly informed as to my origin, life and true characteristics I will, at the risk of being an egotist, write something of my parentage and myself-- sometimes call (an) autobiography.

My grandfather Isaac Hill, Sr. was born of English parents in Edgecomb County, N. C. in May of 1748 and married Lucy (*Lucinda Wallace*) whose father was Irish, and whose mother was Welsh descent, both poor, but by industry and economy, they accumulated some property. His principal business, whilst his first children were small, was farming poor land on a small scale, and running turpentine and tar and marketing them. His honesty, industry and energy made him popular in the county, and he was elected Sheriff, and tradition says he made a first rate Sheriff. And it also says, he effectually cured a bad habit then prevalent there among lawyers and litigants of whittling on wooden finishing and fixtures about the courthouse. This he did by watching, and whenever any one got out his knife and commenced to whittle, he instantly in a pleasant manner furnished him with a nice yellow pine splinter already split from ½ to 1 in. square, which movement always attracted general attention and shamed the would-be whittler to put up his knife.

My father, Henry A. Hill (Henry John Alexander Hill) was the oldest child of said Isaac and Lucy Hill and was born in 1774. When just old enough to go into the pines to assist a little collecting pine, making tar kilns and running tar, he was going over the top of a tar kiln then on fire and running tar when the dirt covering it gave way letting one of his legs into the fire, which badly burned the flesh under his knee. It cured after great suffering, leaving his leg at the knee permanently and badly drawn and crooked.

In 17?? (January 06, 1796) he married my mother whose maiden name was Susannah Swales, but (who) was then the Widow Savage, with one child by her (can't read, maybe it says 'first husband') Sterling Savage. My mother was of English parentage and was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, now the Potomac River below Washington City. Her parents moved with her before she was grown to Edgecomb County, North Carolina,

where she had married Sterling Savage, and after his death, married my father, and there I think, my older brother, Ervin Hill, Isaac Hill and Asa Hill were born, and I suppose about 1800 or 1802, my grandfather said Isaac Hill and his family and my father and his family and others move to Hancock County, Georgia. Grandfather had, at that time, a numerous family of children. Of whose names I remember, my father Henry John Alexander, Wright, Whitnel, Isaac, Lawrence, Benjamin (my lineage came through Benjamin), Asa, Allen and Lucy, his son John Hill was the father of Benjamin H. Hill, a senator of present (some time between 1812 and 1892) in Congress from Georgia. Grandfather soon settled in Jasper County, Georgia, and carried on farming and merchandizing at a place which soon took and retained the name of Hillsboro from his name.

Father, after residing in Hancock County (*Georgia*) for about two years, moved to Tennessee and settled in what is now Warren County, but which was then White County—off which Warren County was afterwards taken. He first built and resided two years on the East Bank of Collins River, at the foot of a beautiful Indian Mound where (*his*) brother Isaac afterwards lived and died. Father after residing there about two years built double log cabins where I now live into which he moved and lived till his death 1st day of August, 1825.

The names of his (*Henry's*) children and my mother's (*Susannah*) were Ervin, Isaac, Asa, Jessee, Melchisedec (Dick), Lucinda and Myself (Hugh Lawson White Hill).

My grandmother Lucy (*Lucinda Wallace*) Hill died in Georgia, and grandfather married there Lydia Hill, widow of William Hill (no kin) and soon moved to Tennessee. He settled and lived many years in the cabins my father built and first lived in, at the foot of said Indian Mound (*on Hills Creek Road, Warren Co., TN*). From the time he settled there, he carried on farming till his death.

Several years before his death he built on Hill's Old Trace on Cumberland Mountain nine miles east from his residence on Collins River at (said) Indian Mound. There in the mountain he kept a large herd of cattle, made a great deal of cheese and butter, which he marketed to Nashville about twice a year, bringing back (goods) for himself and neighbors. And he entertained travelers where he lived in the mountain (probably at Hill's Tavern which was like a stage stop); a great many persons were about that

time traveling westwardly across the mountain on horse back and otherwise looking at locating and settling lands in Middle Tenn(essee) and elsewhere.

Grandfather owned 35 or 40 slaves, of whom the women, little children, the old and the infirm(*ed*) not able for service on the farm, he kept in cabins in his yard on the mountain and fed them like they were aristocracy, on bacon, pork, beef, mutton, and venision, butter, cheese and groceries.

(Isaac Hill, Sr. was buried at Hills Tavern on Hills Trace where his grave is nicely marked. In the woods around his grave are as many as seven unmarked graves. After listening to stories or legends, I'm assuming that these graves are those of his black servants. The majority of his children and many of theirs are buried in the valley below on a beautiful hill called Center Hill Cemetery or Hill's Cemetery. It's an interesting place to visit. The stones for two of Henry John Alexander Hill's children are of the same design as the stone at Isaac, Sr.'s grave on the mountain. I believe the concrete stones were placed there some years after the deaths.

My family line (Jocelyn MacKenzie Partin--2004, Grady Daniel Partin-1978, **Jacqueline Layne**--1942, Cleveland Layne--1919, Emma King--1896, Mary Athelia Perry--1872, Marilda Manville J. Hill--1846, Montique Pleasant Hill--1826, Benjamin J. Hill--1783, Isaac Hill, Sr.--1748, Abraham Hill, Sr.--1697, Henry Hill--1672, Richard Hill--1640.)

Italics show my entries for clarification. I assume that somewhere there are more pages to this document. If anyone reads this and knows where there may be more information, please email me at jackiepartin@blomand.net or write me—Jackie Partin, P.O. Box 295, Monteagle, TN 37356. Thank you.)

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

Your ancestors count on you to remember them.

THE SCHAERERS MIGRATE TO MONTEAGLE

Godfrey Henry Schaerer (1861-1926)

Jackie Layne Partin

How interesting it must have been to see the immigrants flowing slowly into John Moffat's town, Moffat, Marion and Grundy County, Tennessee. In 1866, five-year-old Godfrey Henry Schaerer's adventure started in Bern, Switzerland, and later the ship, "Sir Robert Peel," on which he would travel to America departed London, England and arrived in New York City, New York on July 22nd. His parents were Hendrick "Henry" Rudolph and Elizabeth "Eliza" (Staub) Schaerer. Godfrey was their youngest child on the ship's roster, but five siblings, Rudolph, Hendrick, Emile (male), Edward, and Julia also accompanied them to America. He became a naturalized citizen in 1871.

The original Swiss colonists settled in Grundy County in 1869, and many were unable to speak English well. The 1870 Census taker could not spell some of their names or understand their occupations well enough to fill out the records correctly, but oh, what talented folks they were! The Schaerers did not seem to be a part of the group who went to the vicinity later called Gruetli, Laager, TN. Those who landed on the east coast generally met a relative or friend who took them into their household for a short period of time. Then they headed off on wagons or trains going in the direction of the new colonies being settled around the U. S. A. The Schaerers had a mind to work themselves down South to Tennessee, namely Moffat/Monteagle.

Young Godfrey would have been about seven years of age when he looked out over the plateau and into the valleys to decide if his family had really found a new Switzerland. Since he was so young, it seemed reasonable to say that he came to Monteagle with his parents, Henry and Eliza. Two of his other siblings, Rudolph Edward and Julia Henriette, came with the family. Other researchers have family histories on those two siblings. Some of the Swiss immigrants moved into Tracy City, a busy, little, coal town where the life as pioneers began with coal dust all around, on the laundry waving in the wind, in the houses and in the air breathed. The Swiss became the business people of the town. Others like the Graenichers kept on moving on the plateau when they heard about the little village, Moffat, being formed west of Tracy City. Some of the Swiss saw as much opportunity in those two towns as they did in Gruetli. They could choose

to farm the land or to operate businesses needed to build towns. One explanation as to why the Schaerers may have started their American dream by settling in John Moffat's territory is the fact that one of Moffat's good friends was Peter Staub, possibly a relative of Elizabeth (Staub) Schaerer. Mr. Staub may well have pointed Henry to take his family to Moffat/Monteagle. He had a good little start on developing his Swiss Colony in Gruetli, so why not help John Moffat build up his little colony on the west end of the plateau? Mr. Moffat wanted Scottish immigrants, but he quickly gave that up and settled for skilled immigrants, period. The Schaerers were in Moffat, Tennessee in 1874 when they were listed, among many other families, as having bought land from John Moffat—questionable land dealings that would eventually upset the whole village.

In the 1880 Census, Elizabeth, the matriarch, lived with her daughter Julia Henrietta and her husband, George Seeley. Baby Emma Seeley, Julia's first child, was a delight to her grandmother. The patriarch of the family, Henry Rudolph had probably already passed away and was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery in an unmarked grave. If so, his adventure in Monteagle and America was cut short. His wife Eliza probably filled one of several fieldstone-marked graves near some of the Schaerer families when she passed away.

On July 22, 1880, Godfrey married a young local lady named Sarah Jane "Sallie" Long (1865-1952), daughter of Cornelius and Lourany Long. C. L. Keith, J. P. officiated at that occasion. The Longs may have been one of the oldest families to pioneer that neck of the woods. From this marriage a daughter, Lula May Schaerer was born on May 4, 1881, and another daughter, Maud Elizabeth, was born on Sept. 1, 1885. On January 8, 1902, a Monteagle society article mentions that the Schaerer ladies, Sallie, Lula, and Maud, were in attendance at a "Tacky Party" and candy pull at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown Mankin (Permelia). The Schaerer ladies appeared to be involved with local society in Monteagle. This party shows a connection of two families, the Schaerers and the Mankins, which would bring about a marital issue about five years later.

On September 22, 1888, Godfrey H. Schaerer and wife Sarah L. Schaerer filled out a warranty deed (half interest) to Brown H. Mankin concerning a sawmill on the bluff of Little Fiery Gizzard Gulf, wherein Battle Creek Road is mentioned. That is the original name of the road I live on now (2019). This brings Godfrey Schaerer and Brown Hall together in a business deal.

At the age of twenty-one, Lula Mae Schaerer married Alexander E. Collins on July 9, 1902 on the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly auditorium. What an exciting event for all of Monteagle!

The Nashville American, July 11, 1902 published the following story in the Monteagle News section:

"Late yesterday afternoon Dr. George Summey, platform manager, whispered it around that something intensely interesting would happen in the auditorium just before the lecture by Dr. Crossfield at 8:15. Long before that hour people, young and old, were filling the auditorium until over 3,000 were seated in the building.

At 8:15, to the strains of the Lohengrin wedding march, played by Dr. Nicholas Elsenheimer, a bridal party of five couples entered and formed a semi-circle on the stage, which was decorated with mountain foliage. The bride, Miss Lula Schaerer, was gowned by white organdy trimmed in Valenciennes lace and carrying a shower bouquet of white double petunias and asparagus fern, followed on the arm of the groom, Alexander E. Collins. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Summey, while Dr. Elsenheimer played a nocturne. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey Schaerer, and is considered one of the prettiest girls in Monteagle. The groom is a young business man of Mobile, Ala. The bridal party were Miss Maud Schaaerer and L. C. Brill, of Mobile; Miss Belle Starlings and George Seely, Miss Hattie Smith and John Sampley, Miss Belle Seely and John Blanton, Miss Lee Bell Payne and Henry Garner. The bridesmaids wore gowns of white organdy and carried bouquets of asparagus fern. As the wedding party left the auditorium the audience expressed their good wishes and congratulations by long applause. A reception was given at the bride's home. Many handsome presents were received. Mr. and Mrs. Collins leave Saturday for their future home in Mobile. They are at home with the bride's parents here until then."

There are more interesting local names for researchers in this society page article. It seemed as though I was in attendance when I recognized the names of the wedding party either through Census searches, cemetery records, or word of mouth. What a treasure trove!

Sadly, Lula May (Schaerer) Collins died two years later on Dec. 1, 1904. She was buried in the Monteagle Cemetery.

From Lula's wedding account, I can see that Godfrey and Sallie were still married in 1902, but somewhere along the way they divorced, for on September 5, 1907, Sallie Schaerer married Brown Hall Mankin (1852-1927) in Grundy Co. with W. D. Bennett officiating. Brown's first wife Permelia Jane (Downing) Mankin had died in 1904 leaving Brown a widower. What brought about the marital differences between Godfrey and Sallie, I cannot say, but now Godfrey was on his own for the time being.

We see in 1910, Jefferson Co., AL, that Godfrey, his daughter Maud, her husband Johnny Mankin, and their son, Henry Hall Mankin all lived in the same household. Those readers who remember some of the Mankin men know that house painting was their expertise, and they used it to support their families. Some of the Schaerers were also house painters. Throughout the 1910-1920 decade, Maud and Johnny lived in Alabama or Hamilton Co., TN.



Maud Elizabeth
(Schaerer) Mankin
holding her son
Henry Hall Mankin
Lucretia Metcalf, a
friend, is the other
lady in the photo.

On October 7, 1911, Godfrey married Lavenia Trevene Trussell (b. June 22, 1888), daughter of Andrew and Malinda (Kilgore) Trussell with W. D. Bennett, J. P. officiating. To this couple was born a daughter Virgie Mae Schaerer (1919-1982). On February 27, 1920, Lavenia died with pneumonia in Chattanooga, TN. Thankfully Godfrey's daughter Maud was old enough to help care for her half-sister Virgie May, who was known by most Monteagleans as Sis "Mankin," not Schaerer.

Johnny and Maud eventual moved back to Monteagle from Birmingham, via Hamilton County, possibly to help attend Maud's father in his last years and then with the rearing of Maud's little sister, Virgie "Sis." Sis grew up and married David "Son" Adams and the couple together had no children. The only hope for the "Schaerer" name in Monteagle to be carried on was through Godfrey's brother, Rudolph Edward Schaerer's descendants.

In the *Mrs. Grundy* newspaper dated May 13, 1926, we read the obituary for Godfrey Henry Schaerer as follows:

"Godfrey Schaerer Dies—Godfrey Schaerer an old and respected citizen died Friday evening at the home of his daughter Mrs. Johny Mankin of Monteagle. Dr. Logan assisted by Rev. Blackwood conducted funeral services and his body laid to rest Sunday in the Monteagle cemetery. He is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Johny Mankin and Virgie May Schaerer and one Grandson Henry Hall Mankin all of Monteagle."

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.

Mosier, Trent

Mottern, Jack

Mullican, Grady R.

Mullins, Chester A. "Moon"

Murphy, Charles Austin III

Northcutt, S.H. "Hallis"

Northcutt, Stanley

Northcutt, Stephen

Northcutt, Woodson

Norwood, Pete

Myers, Billy Carmon

Myers, Carl David

Norwood, Wilburn Cullen, Jr.

Nunley, Clarence Howard, Jr.

Myers, Charlie D.

Myers, Denver A.

Myers, Glenn H.

Myers, John Lloyd

Myers, Leonard

Myers, Pascal

Nunley, Beecher

Nunley, Carl David

Nunley, Carroll

Nunley, Charlie, Jr.

Nunley, Charles E.

Myers, Speeker L.

Myers, Thomas Carl

Nunley, Charles W.

Nunley, Charles William, "C.W."

Nearn, A.O. Nunley, Clarence Edward

Nestor, Harvey
Newsome, Albert "Pap"
Nunley, Claude
Nunley, Corbet
Newsome, Charles A.
Nunley, Eldridge
Newsome, Clyde C.
Nunley, Ernest

Newsome, Meredith Nunley, Felix Webster

Newsome, Quandrel Lee "Buck" Nunley, Frank Hembree "Red"

Newsome, Wiley

Nunley, Franklin D.

Newton, Edward L. "Bud" Nunley, Glenn Allen

Nieves, Eddie Nunley, Harry H.
Nix, Henry Joel Nunley, Henry F.
Nolan, Alfred D. "Buddy" Nunley, Isaac H.

Nolan, Herman

Nolan, Hugh Edward

Nolan, James Theodore

Nunley, Isaac II.

Nunley, J.H.

Nunley, James

Nunley, James C.

Nolan, Ray "Flea" Nunley, James Howard

Norris, Arwin Eugene Nunley, Jefferson

Norris, J. Edward Nunley, Jr., Arthur "Boe"

Nunley, Jr., Howard Norris, William Clifton

Northcutt, Adrian Nunley, Led

Northcutt, Clayborn W. Nunley, Leo William Northcutt, Durward Vernon "D.V." Nunley, Leslie Howard

Northcutt, George Stanley Nunley, Louis Stanley "Red"

Northcutt, Harris Bradford Nunley, Maxie Bruce Nunley, Michael J. Northcutt, Houston Nunley, Monroe H.

Northcutt, Houston Northcutt, J.A. Nunley, Phillip Douglas

Northcutt, Lawson Hill Nunley, Ralph Bonnell Nunley, Raymond "Bud" Northcutt, Lyte W. Northcutt, Orange Lemon Nunley, Silas "Polly"

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 set apart for holding the courts of Said county in the Town of Altamonte, on the first Monday being the 4th day of December A.D. 1848. Present the worshipful John Fults, Gedion Gilly, Richard Bradford and Daniel Ssien esquires Justices, &c.

Alexander M. Blair chairman of this court being absent the court thought fit to appoint and did appoint Richard Bradford esquire chairman pro tempore.

Ordered by the court that James Winton, William W. Craw, Michael Hoover, Wm. Guest, Samuel J. Christain, Nimrod Saine and William Rhea, be appointed a Jury of view to lay off and mark a road of the second class from the Town of Altamont to the foot of the mountain near Hale Meadows, in Hubbards Cove and report to the next Term of this court.

This day Jesse Wootten, who was appointed one of the trustees of the Altamonte Accademy came into open court and refused to enter into bond, and act as one of the board of Trustees of Said Accademy. Whereupon, the court William Armstrong Trustee in the room and Stead of the Said Jesse Wooten, who executed and acknowledged his bond in open court. Conditioned as the law directs.

Ordered by the court that William Crouch be appointed overseer of the road from the Top of the mountain to Altamente and have the following bounds and hands (towit Washington Smith, Duncan Campbell, Wm W Craw, and Stephen M. Griswold hands.

Ordered by the court that Andrew H. Quarles be appointed overseer of the road from Thomas Martins to the top of the mountain, and have the following bounds and hands (towit, James Coulson, and hans Preston Fletcher, James Parks hands, Josiph Rhea, Edmund Martin and Thomas Martin hands.

Court adjourned until court in course.

Richard Bradford Chirman prtm

D. Sain

John Fults

GENEALOGY PROJECT



Take copies of family photos and glue them to decorative paper – wallet school photos would be a great size. Trim with lace or rick rack. Display in a shadow box with a piece of vintage material behind the photos. Another way to display photos is to add them to the back of an old window and display in the home.



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.

1880 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS OF GRUNDY COUNTY

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BUTTER (LBS)		20	20	20	2		70	20	30	50	100		20	20	25	25	20	200	100		100	300		6	9 9	20	20	350	120		10	20	23	ē
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NAME	Page 8, E.D. 43, Civil District 4	Brown, Thomas	Tate, Elias	Echols, James	Nimber William	Rogers, Tarrel	Dykes, Robert	Morton, William	Thompson, George	Hobbs, James	Morton, Wesley	Page 9, E.D. 43, Civil District 4	Woodlee, Mary	Woodlee, James B.	Brown, Thomas	Brown, Samuel [sic]	Brown, Norris	Walker, Zedekiah	Dykes, Isham	Nunley, James	Abernathy, Thomas	Morton, John	Page 10, E.D. 43, Civil District 10	Walker James	Lockhart, William	Dukes Jackson	Tate, William	Hege, John	Farhay, James	Brackins (?) no first	name	Nearn, Mansfield	Lockhart, Joseph	Tate, John S.

	(CORDS) OTHER			20 oats, 500; wheat, 25	20 milk, 10 gal; oats, 100	20 wages pd, \$15, wheat, 22		25 milk, 20 gal sold			wages pd, \$5 for 5 weeks labor and 1 week 20 colored labor; oats, 40	250		20	20	2.5	wages pd, \$10 for 4 weeks labor; oats, 70; wheat, 16 35	20 wages pd, \$5 for 8 weeks labor		× ×	30 oats, 20; wheat, 30		wages pd, \$25 for 8 weeks labor; milk, 500 gal 25 sold; wheat, 84; peas, 10	8	25 peach trees, 50	15 milk, 20 gal sold; wages pd, \$2 for two weeks		2.50	25 lbs.; wine 30 gal	10 wine, 25 gal	18 mik. 20 gal sold		15 wages pd, \$10 for 4 weeks labor; oats, 50
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IRISH POTATOES	(BUSHELS)														9	5 6				5 6			1)		52			2.0	8	50		58	
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	NAME Page 8, E.D. 43, Civil	District 4	Brown, Thomas	Tate, Elias	Echols, James	Nunley, William	Rogers, Tarrel	Dykes, Robert	Morton, William	Thompson, George	Hobbs, James	Morton, Wesley	Page 9, E.D. 43, Civil District 4	Woodlee, Mary	Woodlee, James B.	Brown, Thomas	Brown, Samuel [sic]	Brown, Norris	Walker, Zedekiah	Dykes, Isham	Nunley, James	Abernathy, Thomas	Morton, John	Page 10, E.D. 43, Civil District 10	Walker, James	Lockhart, William	Dykes, Jackson	Tate, William	Hege, John	Farhay, James	Brackins (?) no first name	Nearn, Mansfield	Lockhart, Joseph

Available Publications For Sale

Beersheba Springs, a History Vol. I 2010, \$20.00

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Beersheba Springs, a History Vol. II Supplement 2012, \$20.00

Beersheba Springs, a History Vol. III Classics, \$20.00

Dad's Railroad by Mary Priestley, \$14.00

Family History of Flury – Stoker family compiled by Catherine Flury, \$25.00

Grundy County by James L. Nicholson (Tennessee County History Series), \$47. Used condition

Grundy County Family Portraits by Jackie Partin, \$15.00

Grundy County Cemeteries Vol. I, \$40.00

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John Armfield of Beersheba Springs by Isabel Howell, \$15.00

Morton B. Howell Memoir, \$10.00

Mountain Voices & Index, The Centennial History of Monteagle Sunday School Assembly, \$60.00

The Swiss Colony at Gruetli by Frances Helen Jackson, edited by Clopper Almon 2010, \$20.00

The Pathfinder (Quarterly Publication of Grundy Co. Historical Society) back issues \$12.00 ea.

Pictures of Our Past Grundy County Tennessee, collected and edited by Grundy County Historical Society 2008 is out of print. Persons interested in placing a reservation for a second printing of the edition should <u>contact The Heritage Center at 931 592-6008 or email history@blomand.net in the event that we are able to reprint it.</u>

New 175 Anniversary of Grundy County Pictorial History - Due out winter 2019 \$39.95 if ordered in pre-publication. Price will increase after publication.

Book orders costing \$25 or less, include \$7 postage. Book orders over \$25, include \$10 postage.

Our 175th Anniversary of Grundy County Pictorial History book is now with the printer. We hope that all of you sent in pictures to be included in the book. Acclaim Press tells us that the book will be complete by December 2019; we are looking forward to it and hope that you will be too. If you haven't purchased a copy, the book will be \$49.95 plus \$6.50 if you want it shipped to you. Please send your payment to Grundy County Historical Society; P.O. Box 1422; Tracy City, TN 37387 along with your mailing information. If you have questions, please contact us at heritagelibrary@blomand.net.

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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 2nd Saturday unless otherwise announced. These meeting 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 31st.

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@snghere.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 jantay641@gmail.com 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 \$.20 per page plus the cost of postage and handling. Contact jantay641@gmail.com with queries.

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