



This Biography Graciously Submitted by Thomas D. Dickerson
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsmith/calgregory/calgregorybio.htm>

Stephen Calvin Gregory: pictured left....

CAL'S COLUMN

Stephen Calvin Gregory - minister, educator, genealogist, newspaper publisher, civic and political leader. Cal was born July 8, 1891, the son of Thomas Morgan (Dopher) and Marietta Ballou Gregory. He was the eldest of ten children - three boys and seven girls. The family lived in the Mace's Hill community of northwestern Smith County between Dixon Springs and Pleasant Shade, Tennessee.

He was the great-great-great grandson of Thomas Gregory, who with his sons, William and Bry settled in the Nixon Hollow between Carthage and Pleasant Shade in the 1790s. Calvin Gregory also descended from John Gregory, a brother to the above mentioned, Thomas Gregory. These Gregory's all migrated from Chatham County, North Carolina. Another of Calvin Gregory's ancestors was Leonard Ballou (his great-great grandfather), who settled near the confluence of Big and Little Peyton's Creek near Pleasant Shade in 1808.

Calvin, as he preferred to be called, rarely used his first name. He was named in honor of his paternal grandfather, Stephen Calvin Gregory. Calvin was an extraordinary individual having unusual scholarship abilities. (In 1957, he was nominated and selected to appear on the television series, "The \$64,000 Question", but died prior to his scheduled appearance.)

He began his education at Mace's Hill school in about 1898 and later recieved outstanding scholastic success at Bowling Green Business university, in Kentucky. After returning home, he taught school at Dean Hill (Defeated Creek area), Mace's Hill, Scanty Branch (near Dixon Springs), Kittrell's (near Pleasant Shade) and perhaps other locations. He was a mail carrier from Pleasant Shade for about three years starting in 1916.

In 1912, Calvin was married to Miss Mai Gammon and they became the parents of two children, Lawrence and Meddie. Shortly thereafter, Calvin lost both of his parents and in 1914 assumed the awesome responsibility of rearing and caring for four of his sisters ranging in age from seven to sixteen. These sisters all remained with him until they married with the last one leaving in 1929. During this time, Calvin endured the pain of losing his wife Mai to cancer in 1926. Later, he married Miss Ethel Gann but she also died (along with a newborn son) as a result of childbirth complications in 1928. In 1930, Calvin was married for the third time to Miss Betty Jenkins who presently lives at Lafayette, Tn. From this marriage, they became the parents of three children, Leonard, Charles and Sue Gregory.

Two of Calvin's children still survive, Meddie Wilburn of Indianapolis, Indiana and Leonard Gregory of Richmond, Texas.

Calvin Gregory professed faith in Jesus Christ at age 18 and united with Mt. Tabor Baptist Church. In 1914, he was ordained as a Baptist minister

by this church which is located near Pleasant Shade. Here began one of the most successful ministries of any Baptist minister in Middle Tennessee. During his ministerial life, he pastored more than fifty churches and was instrumental in organizing Mace's Hill Baptist Church in 1917. He served until the time of his death as the first pastor of this church which spanned forty years. At one time in his career, he was the pastor of seven churches, simultaneously. He baptised thousands into numerous Baptist churches, conducted more than 3000 funerals and married over 1200 couples. He was an avid debater in religious discussions encountering many leaders of other religious denominations. Calvin was clerk of the Enon Baptist Association for forty years and was a much sought after revivalist, having conducted revivals in all three divisions of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Virginia.

During the late 1920s, he was a correspondent for the Carthage Courier and Nashville Banner newspapers and put his home town of Pleasant Shade "on the map" through his reporting of the local news events. He was also the agent for Macon, Smith and Trousdale counties for the "Newspaper Printing Corporation of Nashville". In 1930, he bought one-half interest in the Macon County Times, Lafayette, Tn. and in 1937 assumed full control of the "Times", developing it into one of the top weekly newspapers in the state. Under his direction as editor and publisher, the Times grew to a circulation of more than 4000 and ranked as the third largest in circulation of any weekly newspaper in Tennessee.

His popular "Cal's Column" section of the Macon County Times was devoted to genealogy and research on the history of the Upper Cumberland area of northern Middle Tennessee. He was widely recognized as a genealogical expert and researched hundreds of families and published the results in his column. At one point in his career, Calvin was asked by United States Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin, to travel with him to Europe (he respectfully declined) to research his family history. His work has been listed as a reference source for genealogical research and is well known by genealogists throughout the United States.

In addition to his Baptist ministry and newspaper work, Calvin gave extensively of his time to civic activities. He was elected to and served for many years on the Macon Co. Quarterly Court. He was instrumental in the court's voting to build the Macon County High School. As president of the North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc., dial telephone service was made available to Macon, parts of Smith, Trousdale and Sumner Counties of Tennessee and Allen County, Kentucky in the early 1950s.

In 1981 he was honored, posthumously, by being elected to the Tennessee Newspaper Hall of Fame, joining 26 other former newspaper individuals so honored.

Calvin Gregory touched the lives of thousands of people in the Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky area. He maintained a standard in his religious practices, service to his community, ethics, integrity and intellect that only a few people could approach. His outstanding life was cut short near the zenith of his career and had he survived to a ripe old age one can only wonder what other contributions he might have made to his community and fellow citizens. He died on November 16, 1957 in Lafayette at age 66 after suffering a heart attack. Preceding him in death earlier the same year was his son, Lawrence, who died as a result of an automobile accident.

Calvin's funeral was held in the Macon County High School gymnasium where approximately 3000 people attended. He was buried in the Haysville Cemetery in Macon County.

Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.
May 19, 1949 – Reprinted October 6, 1977

CAL'S COLUMN

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnsmith/ccarticles/>

We closed our last article with a promise to write again. We have had numerous requests for a continuation of our ramblings back along the path of memory. One of the earliest towns or villages we ever visited was Pleasant Shade.

Other merchants at Pleasant Shade in our childhood were: Sanderson and Parkhurst, who had a large store just below the saw and planning mill that Williams Brothers once owned and operated. This was also a very large general store and we often visited it. Another was the store operated by Mann Sloan, located across the creek near his home, at the southwest corner of the village. We knew this man far many years. Later he erected a large store in "town" and this building, with a number of additions, is known today as Sloan Brothers and Company. William McDuffee also sold goods for a number of years in Pleasant Shade. I. P. McDonald was a merchant in Pleasant Shade for many years, and retired only a comparatively few years before his death. H. Campbell Jenkins was also for many years a popular merchant of that place. **Charlie Alexander**, Piper and Sutton, B. J. Massey. L. B. Thomas, Jenkins and Wilmore, and perhaps others have sold goods in Pleasant Shade within comparatively recent years.

We recall another episode that took place down the creek from Pleasant Shade many, many years ago. Bud Alexander, who was born in Lafayette, sustained a very bad leg fracture many years ago and was disabled by his happening for months. During this time, he began to read books on medicine, etc., the result being that he decided to become a physician. After recovering sufficiently to leave home, he went away to medical school and remained until he was able to pass the tests then required of doctors. Shortly afterward, he began the practice of medicine. Among those who lived then on Peyton's Creek was Ned Matthews, an unusual character and a man with one of the finest memories it has ever been our pleasure to know. He also was a man who had a wonderful flow of language, even though his English was often at fault. Possessed with a fine memory, he was able to sing perhaps hundreds of songs without a book. We have heard him sing for hours at a time, relying solely on his memory for the words of the songs. Shortly after **Dr. Alexander** began the practice of medicine, he passed by the home of Uncle Ned, who was rather sceptical about the new doctor's knowledge of medicine. Ned, speaking to his wife, said, "There goes **Bud Alexander** with his saddle bags. He thinks he is a doctor, but I know as much about medicine as he does." His wife chided her husband somewhat for his attitude toward **Dr. Alexander** saying, "Maybe he does know something of medicine." Ned said "I'll prove to you that he doesn't know anything about medicine. I am going to go to bed and when he comes back this way on his return trip. I want you to call him in and let him treat me." So when Ned had removed his clothing and gone to bed and the new doctor was passing on his return trip, Mrs. Matthews said, "Doctor, I want you to come in and see Ned. He's taking on something awful and seems to be very sick." The physician dismounted from his horse, which he hitched, removed his saddle bags from the saddle and went into the home of the "alleged sufferer" or sick man. Alexander was a man with a strong natural mind, possessed of a lot of good horse sense, and a fine knowledge of human nature. He soon discovered that Ned was "possuming on his and that there was not one thing wrong with the pretended sick man who was groaning and grunting and putting up the front of a very sick man. He decided it was a good time to teach a man a lesson who was trying to throw off on the doctor. So he fixed up two or three doses of medicine and poured them down his "patient." As he was leaving, Mrs. Matthews followed the doctor outside, as have thousands of good wives, and said, "Doctor, do you think Ned is very sick?" The gruff doctor replied, "No, by G., but he soon will be." Uncle Ned and Dr. Alexander have both long since crossed the silent river. Let us hope that they are resting together under the shade of the trees that line the River of Life.

Transcribed By Pamela Vick
September 7, 1950
CAL'S COLUMN

Cal has lately been doing some research work that brought to light a lot of information about the early County Court meetings of Smith County, from which Macon, in part, was formed more than 100 years ago. All the east half of Macon County was once a part of Smith County. Since the early records of Smith County have been largely preserved, it is presumed that quite a lot of our Macon County readers will be interested in learning of events that affected at least half the county from 1799 to the year 1842, when Macon became a separate county. In our write-up of the old records of the meetings of the Quarterly Court of Smith County, we plan at this time to place the various items from the records in quotation marks, to be followed with some of Cal's remarks.

It should be remembered that Smith County when formed in 1799, extended from the Kentucky line on the North to Alabama on the South. Toward the west it joined Sumner County, which was formed a few years earlier than Smith. On the east, it is supposed to have joined one of the East Tennessee counties. In other words, Smith County, at its beginning, embraced most of the Cumberland Mountain area in Tennessee and the hills and valleys of all the counties that lie along the western border of the Cumberlands.

Davidson County was formed in 1783; Knox, in 1792; Sumner, 1786; and Wilson, in 1799. This would signify that the east border of Smith County when it was formed 151 years ago was Knox County; and that the western border was Sumner County and perhaps Wilson.

The exact date of the formation of Smith County is not known, the year having been 1799. But the first session of Quarterly Court convened in the home of Capt. Tilman Dixon, just below the present Dixon Springs, on Monday, Dec. 16, 1799. Dixon had arrived in the Dixon Springs section in the late 1780's. For him the Creek near his home was named. His old home, the very building in which the County Court of 1799 met, still stands. But later two brick rooms were added. This is the large old house about a quarter of a mile below Dixon Springs. If these old log walls could speak and tell of the events of the past century and a half of time, what a tale they would unfold. It has been said that one of the future kings of France once slept in this old house, that he had to sleep in the bed with one of the boys in the home.

The records of Smith and Sumner Counties have been largely preserved, and they form a valuable insight into conditions of long ago. We are sad when we think that Macon County records, which should go back to the formation of the county in 1842, were nearly all burned and that our records go back, for the most part, to only 1905. Courthouses used to burn down now and then, and destroy all the records that could not be saved from such burning structures. We wish that all our county records had been preserved, but this cannot be.

“Smith County Minute Book, 1799-1804 and 1835. State of Tennessee, Smith County, December 16th, 1799--Then the following persons: viz. Garrett Fitzgerald, William Alexander, James Gwinn, Tilman Dixon, Thomas Harmon, James Hibbetts and Peter Turney, Esquires, being convened at the dwelling house of the said Tilman Dixon, publicly took the oath to support the Constitution of the United States of America. Also the oath to support the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, also the oath of office which is prescribed by law to be taken by a Justice of the Peace and a Justice of the County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, which several oaths were administered to the above persons by Moses Fisk. After which the same oaths were administered to the said Moses Fisk by the said Fitzgerald. Then by the unanimous vote of the Justices thus in Court Assembled, the said Garrett Fitzgerald, Esquire, was chosen as Chairman of the said County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the said County of Smith.”

Transcribed by M. Carter
Nov. 2, 1950
CAL'S COLUMN

The next item in the old records, made on Wednesday, December 18, 1799, is as follows: "Robert Cotton was appointed Constable, came into Court and gave bond in the sum of five hundred dollars, with **William Alexander** and Lawrence Cotton, his securities, and took the necessary oath of office." We have no record of Robert Cotton, but suppose he probably lived in the **vicinity of Dixon Springs since William Alexander was one of the earliest settlers in that area.** We judge Lawrence Cotton to have been a brother of Robert Cotton, but this is only a guess.

Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.
November 16, 1950
CAL'S COLUMN

We resume our old record publication. For the benefit of any new reader, we may say that we began to publish the old records of the early meetings of the Quarterly Court of Smith County some weeks ago. We are doing this largely to help keep alive the deeds of our very early people and particularly to preserve some of the places and names for posterity. Some may not wish to read of these old events, but there is nothing to keep such readers from passing them by. On the other hand we hope that many will be glad to keep these old records and the places and persons mentioned in mind and memory. It should be added that two copies of this paper are filed each week in the State Library at Nashville to aid those doing research work in years to come.

Transcribed by Kathleen Hastings Whitlock
November 30, 1950
CAL'S COLUMN

The Court appointed the following Gentlemen as a Venire to the ensuing Court: vis: David Keilough, Richard Brittain, Stephen Box, **Daniel Alexander, blacksmith**; Basil Shaw, John Murphy; William Stalcup; David Cochran; Robert Bowman; Godfrey Fowler; Terrisha Turner; Elias Johns; Isom Beasley; Phillip Day; William Saunders; Vincent Dilley; Patrick Donoho; Robert (torn out); John Douglas; William Gregory; Leonard Jones; Henry Duncan; Charles McClanan; Richard Hammond; James Cherry; Christopher Bullar; Stephen Pate; John Patterson, Goose Creek; John Rutherford, James Roberts, Edward Pate, Pleasant Kearby; Joel Dyer, Jr.; Edmond Jennings and Jacob Bowerman." We have already commented on the greater part of the above-named man and those of whom no comment has been offered, are largely unknown to the writer. David Keilough, if we are informed correctly, was a resident of the present Jackson County. Stephen Box is another of the unknowns," so far as our information goes.

Daniel Alexander is specifically mentioned as a blacksmith. This calling was one of the most needed and useful in any pioneer country. George Washington is said to have been an expert blacksmith. On the labors, skill and ability of the blacksmith depended in that day and time nearly all work done in and with iron, plows were all made by the, and many of the utensils in the home wee fashioned by the blacksmith at his forge. So it was an honor then to be a blacksmith, but today his calling has gone into an eclipse in a way. Elias John appears her but it seems that somewhere in our Column we have already made mention of this man who lived on Dixon's Creek at the old Brooks farm. He married the writer's great – great – grandfather, Leonard Ballou's sister, Esther Ballou. Here for the first time, so far as memory serves us, appears the name of Isom Beasley. Later the spelling is correct. Isham Beasley. He was a pioneer settler in Smith County, having just settled near the present Henry Massey farm, south of Dixon Springs. He married Polly Andrews and became the ancestor of the numerous Beasley family of North Middle Tennessee. He became one of the wealthiest men in the county in the years prior to the Civil War., owning hundreds of acres of land and scores of slaves.

Transcribed By Elsie Sampson
January 4, 1951
CAL'S COLUMN

Since our last article was printed, we have received two letters, each containing information on one point, about which we said we did not know. This was with reference to the appointing of patrollers. These letters are both in answer to our inquiry as to whether anyone knew what the statement meant in the old records. Below is a letter from Judge Webb Allen, of Dixon Springs, and is as follows:

12/18/50

Dear Calvin:

In a recent issue of your paper you copy from the old minutes of the Court when certain men were appointed "patrollers" for Captain Nash's Company, and you request information as to what were the duties of these "patrollers." It will be remembered until the year 1840, Smith County was divided into Militia Districts instead of Civil Districts, I find numerous petitions among my grandfather, David Burford's, old papers (he was for some time Senator from Sumner and Smith Counties), requesting the appointment of this or that person as Captain in certain Militia companies. My grandfather was a large slave owner, who possessed more than 40 Negroes at the out-break of the Civil War.

I find numerous bills of sale among his papers, in which slaves were bought and sold: and, in these bills of sale, the slaves were warranted to be "sound and healthy," and "slaves for life." **Dixon Springs was the "mustering place" and voting place for two of these Militia Districts**, which extended to the Kentucky line. Every able-bodied male was compelled by law to enlist in these Militia companies, and to "muster" and drill at least once each year. These "musters" were great events. The Captain and the Colonel were there, attired in brilliant uniforms, with cocked hats and plumes, sashes and swords, and many an old grudge was settled, one of the favorite pastimes being to gouge out the eye of an opponent.

The section in which the Militia company named by you existed, and in which the Dixon Springs section, and the Goose Creek section were included, was a large slave-owning region. The principal duty of the "patrollers" was to patrol their respective districts and to watch out for and try to prevent the escape of any runaway slaves. I remember quite well a song that I used to hear sung by the olden Negroes around Dixon Springs, the refrain of which ran: "Run, nigger, run, or the 'patrollers' will 'ketch' you." I find in the minutes of the **old Dixon's Creek Baptist church** a statement that "Tom, a Negro slave, the property of Brother Womac Parker, was 'excommunicated' from the church for the "sin" of running away from his master."

I think you are correct in your idea as to the difference in the toll charges between the Edmond Jennings' ferry and the other ferries. The river, of course was much smaller above the mouth of the Caney Fork. The river was very broad and shallow at the site of the Banks Ferry. Bennett's Regiment of Confederate Cavalry forded the river there at the time of the Battle of Hartsville, December 16, 1862. The ferry was just below Wright's Island and just above Cedar Bluff. The old Banks house stood until recently. It was on the South bank of the river: and the house of Captain Grant Allen was opposite, on the North bank. It was at the house of Capt. Grant Allen that the old Dixon's Creek Baptist church was first established on Saturday before the second Lord's day in October, 1799. (It might be added that it was first established at an "arm" of a church on Station Camp Creek, below Galatin, Ed.)

Edmond Jennings was one of the most noted characters of his day and time. Some day I may write you about him. Best Wishes.

Your friend,
G. W. Allen

We resume the account of the old records, with our usual line of comment. The next item is as follows: "Deed, 228 acres, Sampson Williamson to George Thomason, acknowledged. Ordered to be registered," We know that Sampson Williams lived near the lower end of the present Salt Lick Creek in what is now Jackson County, but we have not the least idea who Thomason was.

"Court adjourned until tomorrow ten o'clock." So reads the last item for Tuesday, June 17, 1800.

Wednesday, June 18, 1800

"Court met according to adjournment, the following members being present: Garrett Fitzgerald, James Gwinn, Charles Hudspeth, James Hibbetts and Peter Turney, Esquires." Here we have five of the members of the Court who were present for the opening part of the last day's session in the summer of 1800.

"A Venire to the ensuing Court was appointed: (to wit): David Keilow, Henry King, William Gregory, John Gray, David White, John Chambers, Benjamin Johns, William Simpson, Jeremiah Taylor, **Reuben Alexander**, Edward Settles, Micheal Murphy, Arthur Hessian, Josiah Payne, Philip Day, Charles Thompson, **John Johnson**, Charles McMurrey, Joel Dyer, Christopher Bullar, John Steel, James Vance, Uriah Anderson, Lee Sullivan, William Stalcup, Archibald Donoho, Francis Ridley, George Thompson, Frederick Turner, Hugh Stephenson, John Campbell, John Fisher, Thomas Walker, Francis Patterson, James Gibson and Thomas Draper." Here we have a long list of those who evidently were among the leading citizens of Smith County at that time. We have already commented on most of these names. William Gregory was old Squire Bill Gregory, a soldier of the Revolution, who lived in the present Nixon Hollow of Peyton's Creek. He was a brother of our ancestor, Bry Gregory. Squire Bill arrived at the present Nixon Hollow in the autumn of 1791, coming from Chatham County, North Carolina. Benjamin Johns we presume to be the son of Elias Johns and his wife, Esther Ballou Johns. Esther Ballou Johns was a sister of our ancestor on our mother's side, our great-great-grandfather, Leonard Ballou. Edward Settles is said to have lived on the lower end of what is now called Stone's Branch of Peyton Creek which empties into Peyton Creek just above the present Mt. Tabor Baptist church. We wonder if Lee Sullivan was the ancestor of our Macon County Sullivans. If any reader knows about this connection, please write to us. It is supposed that Archibald Donoho was a brother of old Billie Donoho, the old bear hunter who settled on the upper part of Defeated Creek in the very early history of Smith County, but this is only a supposition. It is possible that Archibald was the ancestor of the Donohos of the present Hartsville.

Transcribed by Pat Stubbs

March 1, 1951

CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records at the point where we "left off" last week. The next item is as follows: "Deed, Sampson Williams to Anne Smith, acknowledged in open Court, and ordered to be recorded." From this simple record, we do not have any idea where this land lay. But since Sampson Williams lived not far above the mouth of the present Salt Lick Creek, emptying into the Cumberland just below the old town of Williamsburg, we suppose the land might have been somewhere in that section. Moreover, there are Smiths still living in that section. In fact Smith's Bend occupies the territory between lower Salt Lick and Williamsburg.

"Ordered that Henry McKinney, Sampson Williams, James Blackburn, Benjamin Blackburn, Uriah Anderson, John Fitzgerald, Jabias Fitzgerald and Barnett Lee be appointed to view, mark and lay off a road from Fort Blount to the Indian Boundary near Mr. Blackburn's, and that they report the same to our ensuing Court." Here we find another item that is partially unexplained to the writer, in two or three points. Whether Garrett Fitzgerald, the purchaser of the 1,400-acre tract of land; and John and Jabias Fitzgerald were brothers, we do not know. We wish some member of the family could give us some light. Barnett Lee is another 'newcomer" to these pages, and we have absolutely no information about him. The Mr. Blackburn, near the Indian Boundary, we suppose to have been Benjamin Blackburn.

Whether he and James were brothers is not known. It is supposed that one or perhaps both of these men lived in the present Jackson County on Blackburn's Fork of Roaring River. Blackburn's Fork is a stream about 15 miles in length and emptying into Roaring River about five miles above the mouth of the little river which empties into the Cumberland just above the present Gainesboro. It takes its name from the sound of the waters as they leave the Highland Rim and drop into the Central Basin. Roaring River, so we are informed, is a stream about 40 miles long.

"Ordered that Sampson Williams, William Anderson, Thomas Heaton, Charles Carter, William Marchbanks and James Carter be appointed to view, mark and lay off a road leading from where T. William Anderson lives to Mr. Pate's horse mill, and report same to our ensuing Court." Here we have another unusual item, particularly a "horse mill." This means a mill operated by horse power, but we confess that we do not know just how the power was applied, whether the horse or horses went round and round as they used to do when hitched to an old-fashioned sorghum mill, or whether some form of tramp power was used. In the old-fashioned tramp power, two horses were generally used. They were placed in an enclosure so they could not get out, and beneath their feet was a sort of moving floor which their weight moved in the opposite direction from the way the horses tried to walk. In other words the horses walked and walked, but got nowhere. They kept stepping only to find that their footing was receding behind them. We never saw but one such power plant, and that was about 55 years ago when we were a five-year-old boy. A pair of horses could not stand "the pressure" very long and had to be taken out and rested. We can still recall how very hot these horses got as they tramped and tramped. This outfit furnished the power to thresh our father's wheat crop of more than half a century ago and we believe we can go within five feet of where that "tramp power," the first and last we ever saw, was "put down." Now we do not know how Pate's mill operated, but presume its operation by horsepower was after one or the other plans as ways above mentioned. And we do not know where Pate's mill was located, nor do we know from this meager record which of the Pates operated it, there being Willeroy Pate, Booker Pate and Edward Pate among the early citizens of Smith County. Where T. William Anderson lived is another point "on which we are in the dark."

The following gentlemen were appointed as a venire to our ensuing Court; viz: William Martin, Grant Allen, James Ballou, Daniel Hammock, William Saunders, John Patterson, Patrick Donoho, Thomas Walker, William Roper, William Kelton, John Gray, Thomas Bowerman, Godfrey Fowler, William Haynie., John Chambers, William Stalcup, John Stafford, James Bradley, Andrew Greer, Richard Brittain, Jeremiah Taylor, Phillip Day, Charles McMurry, Anthony Samuel, John Murphy, John Brevard, David Keilough, Jr., Daniel Mungle, **John Johnson**, James Gibson, John Reid, Samuel Corrothers, John Rutherford, Robert Bowerman, Abraham Brittain and John Douglas." Here we have a list of 36 of the leading citizens of Smith County in December, 1800. Comment has been made about most of those whose names appear above. However, we have not commented on Daniel Hammock,*A* who, we suppose or presume, was the ancestor or relative of the Hammock family in Hartsville. We do not recall having seen the name of William Roper prior to its appearing in the above list. but we might be mistaken. Even if we have not mentioned it, we know nothing of the family except that Bill Roper is now connected with the subscription department of the Nashville Banner and the Nashville Tennessean.

Charles McMurry *B* lived in that early day and time on Dixon's Creek, and is the ancestor of Mr Stubblefield, who is a rural carrier out of Hartsville. **John Johnson's** descendants are not known, but one of the Johnsons married a Miss Ballou about 1795 or a little later. They had a son named Meredith Ballou Johnson, whose daughter, Mary E. Johnson, became the wife of an early attorney of Macon County, I. L. Roark, on November 28, 1855. Whether the John Johnson called for jury duty in 1800, was the father of Meredith Ballou Johnson, remains to be determined. The writer hopes that he may be pardoned when he states that the mother of Meredith Ballou Johnson was a sister of one of his great-great-grandfathers, Leonard Ballou, born in Bottetourt County, Virginia, April 4, 1767. He was the son of Leonard Ballou, who married Esther Meredith. This Leonard Ballou, was the son of Rice Meredith Ballou, supposed to have been the son of William Ballou, given land grants in Virginia in 1651 and 1652.

May 3, 1951
This Article Appeared In The Times
But Was Not Actually In Cal's Column
Transcribed by Janette West Grimes
Dixon Springs - Cedar Bluff Recollections
1870--1880

By Abe Caruthers

Howard Young lived northeast of Dixon Springs on a fine farm on which stood a colonial brick residence, an affluent, influential citizen of civic pride. He had two children, Sam M. Young and Fanny. Sam, like his father, was a fine character and a civic leader in the community. He represented Smith County in the State Legislature several times. Fanny married Will Jordan and lived at Carthage.

Cas Alexander lived on a hill overlooking Dixon Springs. He was a citizen of considerable wealth for that era, and was influential in public and civic matters. He had one child, Kate. I think she married a Beasley first; and, after his death, a Dalton and lived in Carthage. I think she died about a year ago.

Dr. James Alexander owned and lived on a farm on Cumberland River adjoining Dixon Springs. He was a typical Southern gentleman of the Old South. He had three sons, and several daughters. One son was **Dr. James Alexander**, who practiced medicine in Kansas for a time and later in Hartsville. He died there a few years ago. Another son was **Donoho Alexander** who conducted a mercantile business at Dixon Springs. Charlie lived on the farm. He married an Ellis. All the daughters were cultured and beautiful women. I think Cynthia married a Prof. Clark, Clara, married Sam Ancerson, and lived in Lebanon; Nannie, married Ed Denny; and, after his death, she married Walter Denny, who was a brother of Ed Denny.

John Wright lived on the pike on the road leading to Carthage, some distance east of Dixon Springs. Rom Wright owned a farm adjoining Dr. Alexander on Cumberland River at Wright's Landing, where the river pockets received and discharged their cargoes for Dixon Springs and that vicinity. He had one son, David, who married Minnie Harrin of Hartsville. I think they lived at Franklin, Tenn.

Wilson Jenkins, whose wife was a Wright, lived on a farm adjoining. She first married a Ward, by whom she had one son, Lewis Ward, who lived at Hartsville. Wilson Jenkins and his wife had three children, Fanny and Mary and Jack Jenkins. Fanny, married Alex Allen; Mary, married a Chenault, and lived in Sumner County, near Castalian Springs; Jack Allen lived in Sumner County.

Moscow, Joe and a sister lived on an adjoining farm which at one time was the home of Grant Allen. But when and from whom the Wrights acquired this land, I am not informed. Moscow Wright moved to Hartsville and engaged in the banking business. He had two sons, Russell and Ross who live at Hartsville. Russell is now an attorney.

On the pike, as the old highway used to be called, west of Dixon Springs, lived George Allen. He had three children, Alex, Rip and Mary Allen. Mary married an Army officer and lived in Louisville, Ky. Alex married Fanny Jenkins, as above set out. Rip, who in 1998 went to Alaska in the Klondike Gold Rush, was lost in a flood while on an expedition to a newly discovered gold strike.

Major Burford lived in a farm on the pike adjoining. He had two children, Bob, who went to Ocala, Florida, and was a prominent politician at that time; and Nannie, who married Dr. Sam C. Bridgewater, a Dixon Springs physician for many years. [Editor's note. Dr. Bridgewater attended Cal's mother, when he arrived in the world on July 1891, and was the family physician of the Gregorys for many years.]

My father, W. A. Caruthers, and mother, Fanny Taylor [McCall] Caruthers, owned and lived on a farm adjoining the Moscow Wright farm on Cumberland River, opposite Cedar Bluff. Opposite our farm and across the river lived Willis and Miss Betsy Turner, a bachelor and maiden sister, most excellent people and neighbors. John Burton lived on an adjoining farm.

James and Mary Lyles Nollner lived on a 90-acre farm acquired from my grandfather, Dr. John A. McCall. Nollner acquired this land as compensation for clearing a tract of 200 acres of land adjoining. Mr. Nollner was an overseer for my grandfather before the Civil War. He was a man of high ideals and personal integrity. He had a family of six children, Bole, William, John, Eliza, Kate and Maria. William married a Carman, and had three sons who live in Carthage, all, like their grandfather and their father, outstanding and exemplary citizens. Eliza married Clay Yales and went to Fulton, Kentucky, to reside. Kate married Hickey Stanford and lived near Hartsville. Maria married Jim Stone. They had two children, Lisa and Nollner Stone. Nollner was the "Stien" Stone, one of Vanderbilt University's most illustrious football stars about the year 1904.

Mrs. Amanda Puryear, a most excellent lady, owned the next farm. She had three children, G. A., Button and a daughter. G. A. [Dall] moved to Nashville and established and owned the Nashville Tobacco Works.

Adjoining our home to the north and leading to the Carthage-Hartsville Pike were the Corleys and the Yates. W. Y. Yates lived in a rock house on the Pike. This house was built in North Carolina; that is, Middle Tennessee was a part of North Carolina when the house was built. This house at one time belonged to a Donoho, the father of Dr. A. G. Donoho, a leading physician of Hartsville for many years. When Yates acquired the farm I am not informed. Mr. Yates had a family of 12 children, 11 sons and one daughter. The rocky, hillside farm did not offer enough remuneration and outlet for the energy of the 11 young Americans. So Yates concluded that the spacious developing prairies of Texas was the place for these boys. So he sold the farm to W. G. Hankins and emigrated to the Lone Star State where the family made good in every respect.

The above items represent the state of affairs in the section described, between 1870 and 1880, and it was a wonderful community of good neighbors. In this environment four brothers, to live during our adolescent and developing years. My advent on terra firma November 27, 1868, found few of the modern wonders extant today. I have seen created and put to use the myriad of magic things this age commands.

On leaving the Rock House on the South side of the Pike lived the Shrums. One of the amusing memories is that of Mr. Shrum's hauling watermelons on a ground sled or slide as it was then called, using a small donkey as motive power to make the trip to Hartsville on Saturdays.

Next lived Fayette and Martha Andrews, bachelor and spinster brother and sister. They reared two orphaned nephews, Sam and Will Tinsley.

On Big Goose Creek was a bridge and Madden Grist Mill, Anthony Bursley, colored, was the miller. In those days the grinding of wheat and corn at this mill was the only source of flour and meal. A summer rain that furnished enough water to raise Big Goose Creek to the stage to start the mill turbine brought every household with a representative, some with wagons, others on horseback or muleback, with turns of wheat or corn to be ground.

Next lived George Miller, who had three children, Jim, John and Martha. Jim was a lawyer and practiced at Hartsville. John went to Cincinnati, and Martha was a teacher, and later went to Utah.

Next lived James DeBow, who had two children, Lizzie and Mary. Lizzie married Ed McMillan. Mary never married.

Next lived Loeve Barksdale, who married Cassie Winston, and moved to Louisville.

Next was a tract of land owned by a Townsend. Next was a place owned by Doll Andrews, colored. Next was a colored church. Next a colored man named Reuben Brannan. Then next was the old Gifford place, purchased and owned by J. Monroe Gleaves, former Sheriff of Trousdale County. This takes one to Hartsville on the south side of the Pike. On the right of the Pike going west was the Mungle's Gap section, with which I was not very familiar. The Stalcup farm was next. The Stalcup home was located some distance back from the Pike and at one side of the entrance to the Stalcup home, was the family burial ground. Dr. A. G. Donoho, then a young "scion," lived at the Rock House and would journey horseback to Hartsville of an evening. On one moonlight night in the wee hours, he was returning home. When he reached the Stalcup place, there were apparitions in the graveyard, a bevy of white objects that young Donoho identified as ghosts. Applying whip and spur to his steed, he made for the Rock House. When quite a distance from the supposed ghosts, his sober judgement and curiosity induced him to return for another peep. When he cautiously approached the Stalcup Cemetery, he discovered that the supposed ghosts were Stalcup sheep browsing about among the tombstones that marked the resting place of the Stalcup dead.

Then the John and Sam Andrews farm was next on Big Goose Creek. Then there was a farm on the same stream that was purchased by Dick Love, who lived on the farm. Then Captain H. C. Ellis, who lived in Hartsville, owned a tract of land. James Johnson purchased land and built a home and lived there until about 1900, when he went to California. Next was the John C. Hutchins place where Col. W. J. Hale, who married a Hutchins, lived. This takes one to Hartsville.

About a mile east of Hartsville and turning off to the north was the road leading to Hillsdale, Lafayette and Red Boiling Springs. Red Boiling Springs at that day and time was largely owned by a man named McGar. There were no hotels then at Red Boiling Springs, just cabins. To reach the Springs a stagecoach brought one to Hartsville, thence a hack took the traveler to Lafayette, practically a half day's journey.

On the road to Hillsdale lived the Winstons, Stubblefields, Highs, Burnleys and Maddens. Burnley's Grist Mill was on Big Goose Creek in this section.

Jack Madden, a bachelor, owned the Madden Mill referred to earlier in this narrative. He also owned a fine farm. He reared an orphan girl named Susie Bradley, who married Randolph Langford. They had three children, Madden, Mary and another daughter, who married Elmo Hale. Madden married a DeBow and Mary lived in Hartsville.

Jack Madden was a great fox hunter and kept a flock of 20 or 25 hounds. The Tennessee Legislature enacted a law requiring a tax of \$5.00 to be collected off each dog that a citizen might own. Madden resented this and swore that he would never pay the tax. So he assembled his hounds at his smokehouse door and lashed them to a tree, and had an attendant bring forth smoked bacon which he sliced and fed his hounds until their voracious appetites were thoroughly satisfied. Then he dispatched the entire flock with loads of buckshot.

In these days farmers of Trousdale County sent four-mule teams in the fall of the year to Macon County to bring thousands of fence rails of chestnut to be used on their farms. After a killing frost, the roads and grounds in the chestnut country were covered with delicious nuts, which are now only a memory. We youngsters would accompany the wagons. While the drivers were busy collecting rails we would gather chestnuts, returning home at times with bushels of the chestnuts. Along the roads, on the rail fences and in the trees were thousands of squirrels migrating from the river bottoms to the * lands where the chestnut trees grew.

In those days one could spend a Saturday or first Monday at the county seat, or a day at a neighboring grist mill, when a summer rain brought out the population with wheat or corn for converting to flour or

meal, and a world of worth-while philosophy and humor. Of the latter I offer one sample-- A Mr. Lea* reporting all his sheep killed but three, was asked how many he had before the raid by dogs. His reply was, "Four."

Your friend,
Abe Caruthers

[Editor's note. If readers enjoy these old accounts, let us know and we believe we can persuade the writer to let us have other articles of the long ago.]

Transcriber Note: * These words were cut off on the microfilm unreadable....

Transcribed by Brenda H. Wills
August 23, 1951
CAL'S COLUMN

"Ordered that Charles Hudspeth, Esquire, William Martin and Andrew Greer be appointed inspectors to the ensuing election and that the sheriff be directed to notify them thereof." Thus reads the next item we will discuss in the old records. Charles Hudspeth was a member of the County Court and resided somewhere in the upper part of the present Jackson County or the present Clay County. William Martin was a well-known planter of the Dixon Springs section, and a leader in his county. He resided not far from the present **Dixon's Creek Baptist church**. Andrew Greer is believed to have lived on the lower end of the Middle Fork of Goose Creek, where there is now an elevation of land known as the "Greer Hill." Just what an election inspector of 150 years ago was, the records do not show.

"Ordered that William Haynes' stock wark, a crop and underbit in the right ear, and a crop and overkeel in the left, be recorded." William Haynes is supposed to have been the ancestor of the Hanes family of Macon County, of a much later date. The family now spells the name, "Hanes."

"Ordered that Richard Brittain be appointed overseer of the road from near Samuel Caruthers' to the 'fork road' **up the Middle Fork of Goose Creek to Daniel Alexander's, and that Daniel Alexander be appointed overseer of the road** leading from his own house to where it intersects with the other road, and that James Gwin and James Hibbetts, Esquires, furnish said overseers with a list of hands." So reads the next item in the old records. Richard Brittain is the same man mentioned earlier in this article as the purchaser of some of the horses belonging to the estate of his father, Nathaniel Brittain. From the record we would judge that he must have lived on the lower end of Middle Fork, not far from where Greer, also above mentioned, lived. The road leading up the creek by his home reaches the Highland Rim at the Gap of the Ridge about six miles west of Lafayette. Evidently Samuel Caruthers lived at the extreme south end of the road, which would mean about the place where Middle Fork empties into East Fork of Goose Creek. **Brittain was to be overseer to the home of Daniel Alexander, which would indicate that said Alexander lived somewhere about the present Pleasant Valley Methodist church.** He was to be overseer to "where it intersects the other road," we presume but do not know that this was a road on the Highland Rim or Ridge running east and west, about where the present Austin Peay Highway is. There is no indication of an intersection and well defined road from the vicinity of Pleasant Valley to the Gap of the Ridge except the present Highway running east and west on the ridge. There is no indication of the present New Harmony Road, or the road leading west from the present Cedar Bluff to Bennett's Store, then having been laid out. James Gwin and James Hibbetts were residents of Goose Creek and members of the County Court.

Transcribed by Rae Wayne
September 13, 1951
CAL'S COLUMN

We continue with the old records. "Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1801. Court met according to adjournment. Members present to-wit; Garrett Fitzgerald, Tilman Dixon and James Hibbetts." This is the first item

for the record of almost 150 years ago. We find only three of the members present, but we note that Peter Turney, James Harmond, and others were absent.

“Grant Allen’s stock mark, a swallow fork in the right ear, and a slit and underkeel in the left ordered to be registered.” This man Allen lived at the mouth of Dixon’s Creek; and, in his home on March 8, 1800, Dixon’s Creek Baptist church was formed. How long the church worshipped in his home is not known, but a log church house was soon erected for use of the church, of which Daniel Burford was the first pastor.

“Deed, Charles Mundine to Abram Moore, proven by the oath of John McFarlin, one of the subscribing witnesses there to, and ordered to be registered.” The name, Mundine, is now extinct in Smith County. In fact we have our first man of the name to meet. Abram Moore was probably a relative or the ancestor of the Moore family residing in the vicinity of Carthage. John McFarlin, we suppose would today spell his name, John McFarland. He was probably a relative of the Dr. McFarland, well-known Lebanon physician and surgeon. Where the land was is entirely unknown.

“Ordered that **John Johnson** be appointed overseer of the road from Mungle’s Gap to the county line, being the road that leads to Bledsoe’s Lick, and that James Hibbetts, Esquire, furnish said overseer with a list of hands.” This **John Johnson** is supposed to have been the ancestor of the Johnsons of a later day, who lived about Hillsdale and in various other places. If so, he married a Ballou, the daughter of Leonard Ballou and his wife, Esther Meredith Ballou, and a sister of James and Leonard Ballou, of the next generation. Mungle’s Gap is just above the present Good Will church and is not far from the county line referred to, which was at the east border of the present Hartsville. Bledsoe’s Lick was the ancient name for the present Castalian Springs. James Hibbetts lived somewhere on the waters of Big Goose Creek.

“Ordered that John Sutton and Nicholas Darnold be added to William Martin’s list of hands, to work on the road where he is overseer.” John Sutton is perhaps here mentioned for the first time. He was most probably the ancestor of the family in Smith and adjoining counties. We have no inkling of who Nicholas Darnold was. In fact we have here our first time to see the name. Wm. Martin was a resident of Dixon’s Creek, but this item does not say where he was overseer.

“Ordered that **John Johnson** be appointed overseer of the road leading from Mungle’s Gap to Dixon’s Creek, at Captain Ballou’s and that the same hands who worked under John Hargis, late overseer, work under said overseer.” This, we infer, meant that John Johnson was made overseer of the entire road from near Hartsville to Capt. Ballou’s, by way of Mungle’s Gap. Captain Ballou was the James Ballou referred to above, as the brother of Leonard, Jr., the latter having been the writer’s great-great-grandfather. Captain Ballou lived just above the ford of Dixon’s Creek on the old Fort Blount trail or road, evidently at the place formerly occupied by the late Charlie Brooks, just below the present Dixon’s Creek Baptist church. Signs of the old road are still visible in many places between this ford and Mungle’s Gap. Over it many hundreds of pioneer families, with their livestock, household goods and farming implements, made their way westward in the long ago.

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes
December 20, 1951
CAL’S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records of the Quarterly Court and Court of Pleas of Smith County, which included most of the present Macon County in the year 1801, which is the time of the meeting of the Court of which we are going to try to write. We give the actual record in quotation marks, followed by our own comments. The opening is as follows:

"Dixon Springs, Tennessee, December 21st, 1801. Court met according to adjournment. Members present [viz] Tilman Dixon, Peter Turney, James Hibbetts, Esquires." The place was in the home of

Tilman Dixon, which is still standing, about a half mile west of Dixon Springs, one of the oldest and most historic dwelling houses still standing in Middle Tennessee. It was erected perhaps as early as 1788. The three members present for the opening part of the three-day session were Tilman Dixon, Peter Turney and James Hibbets. Peter Turney resided on the present Young Branch, about two miles above Dixon Springs, on which stream the writer was born and where he grew to manhood. The old Turney farm is now owned by Bud Garrett. The fine old Southern home that stood on the farm prior to the Civil War has been destroyed by fire. The old spring flows on as in the years long gone by. To the northeast of the spring for a distance of nearly two miles is a long series of sink holes and caves, into part of which Cal went as a youth. Streams drained into part of these sink holes and caves, making the old spring very muddy after every hard rain.

"Grand Jury drawn, and John Chambers appointed foreman. Edmond Jennings, William Penny, David Venters, Josiah Payne, Joel Dyer, John Sedgley, Daniel Hammock, **Daniel Alexander**, Jeffrey Sitton, William Simpson, Patrick Donoho, Michael Murphy, George Thomason." Edmond Jennings was the man for whom Jennings' Creek in Jackson County was named. He resided near the mouth of that stream and operated a ferry there, and also a tavern. We recently published an article by Judge Webb Allen relative to Edmond Jennings.

Daniel Alexander is presumed to have been one of the first Alexanders at Dixon Springs. Jeffrey Sitton is presumed to have been a brother of the Joseph Sitton, who was on trial for months in Dixon's Creek Baptist church on a charge of "selling unmerchantable beef" from a crippled heifer. The old records from which we are copying give his name as Sitton, and so do the church records; but the copy on record at Nashville in the State Library gives his name as Sutton, which we are sure, is incorrect. In the "unmerchantable beef" case, we have the first real church trial in the old records of the church mentioned above. The matter dragged over months of time. Finally Sitton made some acknowledgements, but some of the Parker members were not satisfied with his "confession," and refused to fellowship him in some measure. The matter finally got into such a stage that a church council, composed of representatives from a number of other churches, had to be called in. In their decision they recommended that Sitton's acknowledgements be received and that those who would not accept the admissions of the party who had plead guilty and asked for forgiveness, that they be called "on the carpet" for contempt of church. This recommendation was accepted by the church and some of those who refused to fellowship Sitton were later expelled from the church.

"Ordered that John L. Martin, **William L. Alexander**, Sampson Williams and Thomas Draper be appointed on the Veni Fa to the ensuing Superior Court." The words or letters, "Veni Fa," have us "stumped." Perhaps some lawyer can give us light. The John L. Martin mentioned may have been the man for whom Martin's Creek, north of Chestnut Mound, was named. **William Alexander resided in the vicinity of the present Dixon Springs.** Sampson Williams was Clerk of the Court whose records are being published herein. He was a resident of the lower end of the present Salt Lick, now in Jackson County. There was once a town called Williamsburg, at the place of his residence. Thomas Draper was an early Jennings' Creek citizen.

"Venire Facias to the ensuing Court (viz) Grant Allen, Thomas Jamerson, Daniel McFarland, James Cherry, Thomas Bowman, Joel Dryer, Edmond Jennings, Wm. Saunders, John Rutherford, John Patterson, William Stalcup, James Gibson, William Hargis, John Sedgley, Francis Patterson, Francis Findley, Patrick Donoho, George Thomason, David Ventress, Eneas Harrold, William Simpson, William Penny, Josiah Payne, Thomas Armstrong, Nathaniel Brittain, Joel Dyer, Sr., John Chambers, Elisha Oglesby, John Murphy, Michael Murphy, Jeffrey Sutton, Daniel Hammock, **Daniel Alexander** and Jabez Gifford." Mention of Grant Allen has already been made in this article. Thomas Jamerson is supposed to have been the same as Thomas Jamison, but we have no information about him. Daniel McFarland was most probably a relative of the John McFarlin above referred to. James Cherry is another of whom we know nothing. Thomas Bowman was probably the son of Robert Bowman, who died some years later in the 19th century, and who was the ancestor on the Bowman family of the vicinity of the present Riddleton.

January 3, 1952
Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.
CAL'S COLUMN

We resume our "Colum" with a continuation of the old records of the County Court and Court of Pleas of Smith County. The time is Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1801; the place, the home of Tilman Dixon, a short distance below the present Dixon Springs. For the benefit of any new readers we may add that the old Dixon home is still in a fine state of preservation and is one of the most noted landmarks in Smith County.

"Tuesday, the 22nd, Court met according to adjournment. Members present: James Hibbetts, Elmore Douglas, John Lancaster, William Kavanaugh, Nathaniel Brittain and John Patterson." Some comments has been made already about most of these members of the court and we refrain at this time, from repetition.

"Daniel Alexander is allowed letters of administration on the estate of Reuben Alexander, deceased, who came into Court and qualified and gave security, according to law, and returned an inventory into Court of said estate." We have no information about Reuben Alexander, but presume that he was one of the members of one of the leading early families of the Dixon Springs section. We suppose there is on file at Carthage that inventory, which would make interesting reading for this present day. It is presumed that Daniel Alexander was either a son or a brother of Reuben Alexander.

Transcribed by Pat Stubbs
February 28, 1952
CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records of the Court of Pleas and Quarterly Sessions of Smith County, which we have been publishing for many weeks. The next session was held near Dixon Springs and it is reported as follow:

"At a Court opened and held at the late dwelling house of William Saunders, on Monday, the 15th day of March, 1802. Members present (viz) William Walton, Peter Turney, Elmore Douglas, William Kavanaugh, James Hibbetts and John Lancaster, Esquires." A brief account of part of these magistrates follows: William Walton lived above the present Carthage, and the road leading from Crab Orchard westward by the present Carthage to Dixon Springs and further West is called the Walton Road for this pioneer settler who was among the very first in Smith County. As has been recorded in this column, Peter Turney lived on the present Bud Garrett farm about one and a half miles northeast of Dixon Springs, and on the Young Branch and we may be pardoned for stating that the writer was born on the extreme upper end of this stream. Peter Turney was the grandfather of Peter Turney who became Governor of Tennessee in 1893. He, Peter Turney, Sr., above mentioned was the father of Hopkins L. Turney and Samuel, both well known in the history of Tennessee prior to the Civil War. Peter Turney lived near a large spring which still flows on long after the early pioneer settlers had gone "the way of all the earth." It becomes very muddy now when rains fall higher up the valley. This is thought to be due to a series of sink holes which receive muddy waters from every heavy rain. These sink holes begin on the farm of our old grandfather, Stephen Calvin Gregory, not far from the present Mace's Hill, and extend in a irregular line across the next farm and the next to the old spring. Because of the fact that bears wallowed in the spring and adjacent waters, the old Turney home was known as "Bear Wallow," a name which only a few will recall having every heard the place called.

"Ordered that **Daniel Alexander** be allowed a retailing licence to keep a Tavern at his now dwelling house, that he be rated as follows: (to-wit) For breakfast, dinner and supper, 25 cents; for whiskey by the half pint, 12 1/2 cents; for brandy, 12 1/2 cents; for lodging, 6 1/4 cents; for stalling and forage, (at) twelve, 25 cents; for corn and oats, per half gallon, 6 1/4 cents; who came into Court and gave

security according to law." Here we have some prices that prevailed 150 years ago. Daniel Alexander is presumed to have been one of the members of that family who lived at or near Dixon Springs a century and a half ago. "His now dwelling house" meant his present dwelling house. Three meals for 25 cents was "dirt cheap," so it seems now. We never bought or sold a drop of whiskey or brandy and we are not prepared to comment on the price, but suppose that it was very low for each product. Six and a fourth cents for one's bed was very, very cheap. The other prices, we think, are equally low. The "grammar" on the last is not exactly correct, but it was certainly expressive and brief, setting forth what was done by Alexander.

Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.

June 19, 1952

CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records and our comments thereon. The time is Monday, June 21, 1802. The next item in the old records is as follows: "Deed, 300 acres, James Montgomery to John Kennedy, proven by the oath of Dempsey Kennedy; one of the subscribing witness thereto." We know nothing of either of these parties. We presume that the Kennedy's were perhaps brothers, and members of the present Kennedy family of Smith and adjoining counties. Some members of the family have shortened the spelling to Canada, so were are informed.

"Deed, 20 acres, John L. Martin to **William Alexander**, proven by the oath of David Cochran, one of the subscribing witnesses thereto, and ordered to be registered." No comment.

We are sorry that we do not have available the old census records of North Carolina and Virginia for 1790, which are to be found in Nashville in the State Library. Many, many of the earliest settlers in Smith County were from either North Carolina or Virginia. The census for the years 1800 and 1810 were largely destroyed by the British when they captured Washington in the War of 1812. However, the census records from 1820 are available at Washington. These form a very interesting account of the counties from which various Smith Countains came to Tennessee. For instance, the Gregory family came from Chatham County, North Carolina. The Reeds were from Bertie County, in the same State. The Jenkins family came from Buncombe County, North Carolina. The Fuquas came form Bedford County, Virginia. The writer has connection with the Reed family, from Bertie County, North Carolina. Christian Reed, sometimes known as Christopher Reed, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Isaac Kittrell. Elizabeth was born in 1787. Isaac Kittrell was born in December, 1777, in Granville County, North Carolina. Isaac and Elizabeth were married on Dec. 5, 1805. A daughter, Mary R., was born on September 25, 1806. Mary R. grew to womanhood and on Nov. 5, 1829, married Lorenzo Dow Ballou, of Peyton's Creek, Smith County, Tennessee. He was one of the writer's great-grandfathers, and was the son of Leonard Ballou, born in Botetourt County, Virginia, on April 4, 1767, not far from the county seat, Fincastle.

The Reed name is variously spelled as Read, Reid, Ried, Riud and one or two other spellings. It is said to be of German origin, although we had originally thought it to be of English origin. The census of North Carolina for 1790 lists Christian Reed as the head of the family, that he lived in the Edenton District of Bertie County, North Carolina, that his family included three males over 16 years of age, two males under 16, five females, and 23 slaves, which was a very large number of Negroes for 162 years ago. We have also an item which shows that he was captain of a ship.

After another rather "wide detour," we come again to the old Court records. "Ordered that the inventory account of the 'sail' of Reuben Alexander, deceased, be received and entered of record." Readers will note that the Clerk nearly always managed to spell the word, "sale," as "sail." Reuben Alexander, was, we are quite sure, the ancestor of the numerous Alexander around Dixon Spring at a late date.

Recently we received a letter in which information on the **Meador family** was sought. So far we have found no reference to the family in the old Court records, as memory now recalls. It appears that they came

to Smith County perhaps about the year 1808, and we are six years short of that time in our publication of the old Court records. However, we have recently come across the following: **Isham Meador** was placed on the Revolutionary War pension list in Smith County, Tennessee, for an allowance of \$20.00 per year, on an application dated April 6, 1833, when he was 73 years old. **Joel Meador, of Smith County, Tennessee**, applied on same date, and was then 75 years of age, and was allowed a pension of \$30.00 per year. Evidently these men were brothers and both fought in the American Revolution. We hope shortly to publish a fairly complete list of the earliest members of the Meador family in Smith County and their descendants.

Transcribed by Bob Morrow
September 18, 1952
CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records of the County Court of Smith County, for the June term, 1802, which was a little more than 150 years ago. The time is Monday, June 21, 1802.

"Ordered that **Daniel Alexander** be overseer where he is now overseer, and that James Montgomery, John Kenedy, Joel Holland, Josiah Howell, William Cross, Owen Sullivan, Isaac Sullivan, Daniel Sullivan, Hugh Larimore, Joseph Sullivan, Andrew Galbreath, Jacob Kenedy, William Hellums, Hugh Stephenson, William Malone, Richard Bowen, Elisha Oglesby, Robert Moffitt and Noah Eddy work under said overseer." Here we have another list of road-working hands. We have looked back through the old record to determine where Alexander was previously appointed overseer, but failed to find same. But we would judge that he was overseer on the road that led up Middle Fork of Goose Creek to the Gap of the Ridge, as Elisha Oglesby then lived near the present Pleasant Valley. Oglesby is the ancestor of the Oglesby family now living in Trousdale County and elsewhere. He is also the ancestor of Mrs. Henry Howser and Mrs. Fred Gregory, of Lafayette. We leave off the names of those of whom we have no knowledge nor information. The four Sullivans mentioned, Owen, Isaac, Daniel and Joseph Sullivan, are thought to have lived on the waters of Upper Goose Creek or on the Highland Rim. There is reason to believe that Owen Sullivan, mentioned first in the above list, was the father of Andy Sullivan, who died about 30 years ago in the Fairview section of this county at 107 years of age. He had a son, whom he named Owen, which indicates the probability that Owen Sullivan, the road-builder of 1802 was the father of Andy Sullivan, who was born about 1816.

Transcribed by Mary Knight
November 6, 1952
CAL'S COLUMN

"Wed., June 23, 1802. Court met according to adjournment. Members present: James Gwinn, Elmore Douglass, John Looney and William Kavanaugh, Esquires."

This is the opening item in the old records for the third day of Court, held at the home of William Saunders in the vicinity of Dixon Springs.

"Ordered that Daniel Mungle be Overseer of the road from the forks above Samuel Carothers' to **Daniel Alexander's**, and that the same hands work under him as worked under Richard Brittain, late overseer." We do not know that this Daniel Mungle was the same party, but one Daniel Mungle was a member of Captain Evan Shelby's company that fought in the Kenhawa which was one of the fiercest fought between the Indians and the whites. It took place in northern Kentucky on Oct. 10, 1774. Another in that company of brave pioneers was Frederick Mungle. But we have no information as to what relation they were, if any. Capt. Shelby's men were from East Tennessee. We read also that "W. Johnston and Daniel Mungle, hunting together on Barren River, the former was killed and the latter escaped by flight." This was in 1780, but we do not know that Daniel Mungle, the overseer of 1802, was the Daniel Mungle, Indian fighter, or the Daniel Mungle, who hunted on Barren River. Our guess is that all were one and the same man. Mungle's gap, near Good Will church, between the waters of upper Lick Creek and Big Goose Creek, a few miles south of Lafayette, is believed to have taken its name from Daniel Mungle, who settled on a square mile of land on the waters of Big Goose Creek, about a mile west of

the Gap. The big corner stone markers put up by him on the four corners of his original farm are still to be seen. There is some doubt as to what is now called Mungle's Gap being the original Mungle's Gap, some believing that the original Mungle's Gap lay a few hundred yards further to the south than the present Mungle's Gap, through which a black-top highway, extending from Hartsville to Cato, now runs. We hope to get this straightened out soon. We do not know exactly where Samuel Carothers lived, but it was somewhere on the waters of the present Big Goose Creek. Richard Brittain, the former overseer, we are almost certain, lived in the vicinity of the present **Meadorville**, four miles south of Lafayette. We do not know where Daniel Alexander lived 150 years ago.

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes
November 13, 1952
CAL'S COLUMN

We have some reason to believe that the marking of the boundary line of the county had reference to those parts of Smith County bounded by the newly formed county of Jackson and by Wilson County. Jackson County was formed in 1801, and there is no record previous to the above, so far as we have found, to indicate that the boundary line had been established. Moreover, the next item which reads as follows : "Ordered that William Jones be allowed the sum of fifty-six dollars as surveyor for running the boundary line between the counties of Smith and Wilson; and also between Smith and Jackson Counties, as provided by act of Assembly," shows that these were the two lines under consideration. Lewis MacFarland was, we think, a relative of Dr. Sam MaFarland, of the hospital at Lebanon, Tenn., which bears his name. Some early MaFarlands in Tennessee, including the following : "July 15, (1791) Issac Pennington and Milligen were killed, and McFarland was wounded, on the Kentucky Road." "Major McFarland, in 1792, Sept. 27th, was included in the group of officers to have in charge two regiments of men to fight Indians." His name was John McFarland. Again we read : "Colonel Doherty and Colonel McFarland, in direct disregard of the orders of the Territorial authorities, raised 180 mounted riflemen, with whom they invaded the Indian country." "But to provide for the worst, it was settled before hand, that each man, on discharging his piece (or gun), without stopping to watch the flight of the Indians, should make the best of jos way to Knoxville, lodge himself in the blockhouse, where 300 muskets had been deposited by the United States, and where two of the oldest citizens of the fort, John McFarland and Robert Williams, were left behind to run bullets and lead." This was in 1793. An earlier member of the same family was Robert McFarland. Of him we have the following record : "Jefferson County, as known at present, received its first settlers in this year (1783). These were Robert McFarland, Alexander Outlaw, **Thomas Jarnigan**, James Hill, Wesley White, **James Randolph**, Joseph Copeland, **Robert Gentry** and James Hubbard." We read also of Robert McFarland as Sheriff of Jefferson County, Tennessee, in 1792. Four years later he was still Sheriff.

Transcribed By Pamela Vick
November 27, 1952
CAL'S COLUMN

Since our last article was written, we have come into some information that we wish to pass on to our readers.

We have no comment to offer relative to Anthony Samuel, James Bradley, **William L. Alexander, Jr.**, James Stephens and John Cooper.

The next item in the old records is as follows: "Ordered that Joel Holland and Josiah Howell be appraisers for Capt. Casey's Company, to value Property under execution; **William L. Alexander** and James Ballou, for Capt. Ballou's Company; Henry Moore, Capt. Kavanaugh's Company; Stephen Robinson and William Lancaster, for Capt. Fite's Company; Andrew Greer and Richard Brittain; for Capt. Gifford's Company; Armistead Moore and William Kavanaugh's Company; Benj. Clark and William Thompson, for Capt. Bishop's Company: Grant Allen and John Shelton, for Capt. Patterson's

Company; for the purpose of valuing property taken under Execution, where the original Contract was for property." This rather long item shows quite a number of interesting points. One of them is that the above item indicates that debts were not paid by some men as promptly as they should have been met, the same as today. Another is that legal action to collect such debts had to be resorted to often.

We would naturally infer that each man or group of men appointed as an appraiser or as appraisers lived in the bounds of that section where the appraising was to be done. We do not know exactly where Capt. Casey held forth as the Captain of a company, but we wonder if he did not live in the vicinity of the present Hillsdale six miles south of the present Lafayette. Hiram Casey, who later became a well-known Baptist minister, once lived in that section. However, we do not know the Captain Casey from the account in the above item. And neither do we know who the father of Elder Hiram Casey was, but we do know that Hiram's father came to Smith County very early in its history. Moreover, Joel Holland is believed to have lived in the vicinity of the present Lafayette, and perhaps Josiah Howell also Capt. Ballou lived on Dixon's Creek very near the present brick house of worship used by Dixon's Creek Baptist church. He is the same man mentioned above in this article as overseer of the road leading from the top of Mace's Hill to Dixon's Creek. **William L. Alexander was an early settler in the Dixon's Springs section, not far from the Ballou home.**

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes

April 2, 1953

CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records with some comment on some of them at least.

"Ordered that Charles Kavanaugh, Esquire, be appointed chairman of the Smith County Court." No comment.

"Daniel Alexander's stockmark, smooth crop off the left ear and a slit in the right, ordered to be recorded." No comment.

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes

June 18, 1953

CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old minutes of the Quarterly Court and Court of Pleas for Smith County, Tenn. The time is Wednesday, September 22, 1802. The opening item is as follows: "Court met according to adjournment. Members present: Charles Kavanaugh, Nathaniel Brittain, Peter Turney, William Kavanaugh, James Roberts."

A list of the Venire to the next County Court (viz): Godfrey Fowler, Daniel Hammock, Edward Farris, Michael Murphy, John Payne, David Cochran, James Cochran, John Brevard, Jabus Gifford, Abraham Thompson, **John Johnson**, John Douglas, Philip Day, Charles McMurry, John Hargis, William Hargis, Isham Beasley, Thomas Bowman, Robert Bowman, William Boyd, Abram Brittain, Andrew Greer, Philip Thurman, William Payne, William Edwards, William Hankins, Samuel Carothers, William Cord, Samuel Hughes, Bill Hughes, John Murphy, **William Alexander, Daniel Alexander**, James Butler, Leonard Ballou and David Rorex."

Here we have a list of some of the leading citizens of Smith County in the year 1802. We have only a very little information on practically all of them, although we will give the small amount of data or history of those of whom we know enough to report. Godfrey Fowler lived near the present Cato about 12 miles south of Lafayette, in the early part of the 19th century. He had either died or removed at the time of the 1820 census when there was not a member of the family in the entire country.

Abraham Thompson, **John Johnson**, Philip Thurman, William Boyd, William Payne, William Edwards, William Hankins, William Cord, Samuel and Bill Hughes, John Murphy, and James Butler, are all

unknown to the writer. John Douglas could have been the same Douglas the "intermarried with Sina Gregory," as mentioned in the Column two weeks ago. Sina was a sister to our great-great-grandfather, Bry Gregory, and was our great-great-great-aunt.

William and Daniel Alexander were early Dixon Springs citizens, with quite a number of their relatives still living in that vicinity, although many of them have moved to other sections to make their home.

Dixon's Creek is mentioned once by Ramsey. He reports that **George Roulstone** was postmaster at Knoxville in 1797, and that that place was the point from which all the mail for the middle part of Tennessee and West Tennessee was sent out. The postmaster advertised in the Gazette the list of letters that were still in his hands on January 1, 1797. In this list is mention one letter as addressed to Dixon's Creek.

Transcribed by Gary Jenkins

June 25, 1953

CAL'S COLUMN

We continue with the old records of the Quarterly Court and Court of Pleas of Smith County. The date is Wednesday, September 22, 1802, almost 151 years ago. The first item of business that we have not already published is as follows:

"A list of the Venire (cause to come)* to the November Superior Court of Miro District: Nathaniel Brittain, Joseph Collins, Peter Turney, and Edward Settles." The Middle District of Tennessee was called Miro for some years. We once had a Baptist association called the "Miro District Association," and originally made up of the following churches: Mouth Sulphur Fork, Head Sulphur Fork, Middle Fork, West Fork, and Station Camp. It was formed in 1796 and lasted only about seven years, being dissolved in 1803, and a new Association, the Cumberland, was organized. It may be added here that the Miro District embraced in its early history, practically all of Middle Tennessee. When the Cumberland Association was formed in 1803, 15 churches went into its formation.

The Superior Court was a higher tribunal than the Quarterly Court and the Court of Pleas. The men appointed as a venire, Nathaniel Brittain, Joseph Collins, Peter Turney, and Edward Settles, have had with one exception, comment on part of the writer. Brittain lived at the present home of George Burnley, about 200 yards east of the Donoho Bridge across Big Gose Creek, some five miles northeast of Hartsville. Peter Turner lived on the present Bud Garrett farm, on the Young Branch of Dixon's Creek. Edward Settles lived on Peyton's Creek, not far from Mt. Tabor Baptist Church. Elder Daniel Smith was converted at a prayer meeting held at the home of one "Old Brother Settle," in the year 1831, and the writer is of the opinion that this was none other than the juror appointed 29 years earlier to serve on the Superior Court. It is said that he lived on what later became known as the Dr. Stone Farm. The name, we suppose, was originally Settle, but it became an easy matter to say, "Settles," as the old Court records have it. Some of the older people of a much later day called the name in our presence, saying it as if spelled "Suttles."

In looking over the old records one is impressed with the many Bible names used as given names for the early men of Smith County, Tenn. In this article and the one last week appear the following Bible names: Samuel Donalson, John Smith, John Lancaster, John Kingberry, John Luke, Joseph Gordon, Daniel Hammock, Michael Murphy, John Payne, David Cochran, James Cochran, John Brevard, Abram Thompson, **John Johnson**, John Douglass, Phillip Day, John Hargis, Thomas Bowman, Samuel Carothers, Samuel Huges, John Murphy, **Daniel Alexander**, James Butler, David Rorex, Nathaniel Brittain, Joseph Collins, Peter Turney, John Campbell, Thomas Smith, Enos Harell, Zadoc McNew, and others.

Transcribed by Bob Morrow

July 2, 1953

CAL'S COLUMN

The next item of business in the Court of September, 1802, is as follows: "Ordered that John Gordon, Esquire, be appointed Overseer of the above road, from the above-mentioned ford over the Caney Fork to

its intersection with Walton's Road, and that the hands living in Snow Creek settlement, together with the hands excepted above, work on same."

"Ordered that Daniel Alexander be appointed Constable, who came into Court and gave security and qualified according to law."

Daniel Alexander in 1820 had the following members of his family: Two males under 10, two from 10 to 16, one from 16 to 18, three between 19 and 26, and one over 45, perhaps himself; and one female between 16 and 26, and one over 45, supposedly Mrs. Alexander. Two slaves were reported in the same census. We suppose that the Daniel Alexander was a relative of the numerous Alexander family of a later day in the Dixon Springs section . James, James A., Reuben, Richard, Daniel, and this might have been the one appointed as Constable 18 years earlier; and Josiah Alexander, were heads of Alexander families in Smith County in 1820.

"William L. Alexander exhibited his stock mark, being two swallow forks and an underkeel in the right ear. Ordered to be registered." Perhaps this Alexander in 1820 was dead or else had removed from Smith County. Anyway he is not listed in the census of 1820.

Transcribed By Pamela Vick
July 9, 1953 - Reprinted December 9, 1976
CAL'S COLUMN

We continue with the publication of the old records of the Quarterly County Court and the Court of Pleas of Smith County, for December 20, 1802. The next item is as follows: "Grand Jury (To wit), Leonard Ballou, Abraham Brittain, Ischal Beasley, Thomas Bowman, David Rorex, William Alexander, Daniel Hammock, Godfrey Fowler, Phillip Day, Charles McMurry, David Cochran and William Hankins, who being elected and sworn, received their charge and were sent out; and Jacob Turney is appointed Constable to attend them."

David Rorex's name appears quite often in the old records, but we do not know where he lived. **William Alexander was a resident of the Dixon Springs section in the long ago.** He was perhaps the ancestor of the numerous Alexander family of that section at a later date.

Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.
March 11, 1954
CAL'S COLUMN

We resume the publication of the old records of the County Court and Court of Pleas of Smith County, for Monday, Dec. 22, 1802.

Ordered that the following hands work under **Daniel Alexander**, overseer of the road; viz. Elisha Oglesby, James Oglesby, Hugh Stephenson, Josiah Howell, Joel Holland, John Kennedy, Joseph Sullivan, Owen Sullivan, Isaac Sullivan, Thomas Larrimore, Thomas Wimbs (Weems), John Nichols, Richard Barver (Boquen), Peter Startuck." This road, we suppose, ran up Middle Fork of Goose Creek to the Gap of the Ridge and then down Long Creek to the Kentucky-Tennessee line, as the Oglesbys lived in that distant day and time on the waters of Middle Fork of Big Goose Creek. The Sullivans, in part at least, lived just west of the Gap of the Ridge, where Ellis Jones now lives. **Daniel Alexander is believed to have lived on big Goose Creek. Joel Holland is believed to have been the father of the wife of Noah Jenkins, who lived on Long Creek as early as 1805.** Our present wife is the great-great-granddaughter of Noah Jenkins and the Holland woman. We do not know where a Josiah Howell lived a century and a half ago. Thomas Weems, we are almost certain, was an early resident on upper Long Creek. Richard Baver of Boquen, is another "unknown," his name perhaps being in error as the writing is not clear. Peter Startuck is another of whom we know not one thing. In fact this, to the writer, is a brand new name.

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes
May 20, 1954
CAL'S COLUMN

We continue with the publication of the old records of the Quarterly Court and Court of Pleas of Smith County, in the year 1802.

"Friday, Dec. 24, 1802. Court met according to adjournment. Members (viz): James Hibbetts, Elmore Douglass, William Kavanaugh, Esquires, Justices." This meeting, so far as we have been able to learn, took place at Dixon Springs, in Smith County. Only three of the magistrates of the county were present and still we have not learned how many magistrates had to be present to form a quorum.

"Ordered that **William L. Alexander**, Isham Beasley and Anthony be patrollers in Capt. Samuel's Company." **We would suppose that William L. Alexander lived in the vicinity of the present Dixon Springs; that he was most probably related to the Daniel Alexander who was in that distant day and time overseer of the road leading up Middle Fork of Goose Creek, through the Gap of the Ridge and thence down Long Creek. Isham Beasley's Bend, south of Dixon Springs, until he removed to the Sullivan's Bend section, north of the present Elmwood.** Anthony Samuel was perhaps the Captain Samuel referred to in the same item. A patroller of 152 years ago looked after runaway slaves among other duties and was a dread and a terror to slaves, who used to mention the patroller in some of their songs. We have heard some of the old songs that indicated the dread and terror on the part of slaves toward the patrollers.

Transcribed by Janette West Grimes
August 12, 1954
CAL'S COLUMN

On the Rees family, we have next to nothing. However, if the family is the same as the Reese and Reece family, we have a lot of information. We give now what we have on the Rees family. On Dec. 23, 1852, in Richmond, Va., Rev. R. B. C. Howell, a Baptist Minister, performed the marriage of Austin Gibbons and Miss Mary Rees. The same minister performed the marriage of David Rees and Miss Virginia Chilton in Nashville, Tenn. on Oct 28, 1859. Henry Hart Cartwright and America Forester Rees were married on Dec. 8, 1915 at eight P. M. in the Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Ky. by the pastor, Rev. Cummins. Thus our record of the Rees family, with that particular spelling ends. We wish we had more, but this is all we have.

In 1775, according to the Ramsey's Annals of Tennessee, David Reece signed the Mecklenburg Resolutions, declaring the independence of our American people. Other signers were: **Hezekah Alexander, Adam Alexander, Charles Alexander, Ezra Alexander**, Waightstill Avery, Ephraim Brevard, Hezekiah Jones Balch, Richard Barry, Henry Downs, John Davidson, William Davidson, John Flenniken, John Ford, William Graham, James Harris, Richard Harris, Senr., Robert Irwin, William Kennon, Neill Morrison, Matthew McClure, Samuel Martin, John Phifer, Ezekiel Polk, Benjamin Patton, Duncan Ocheltree, John Queary, William Wilson, and Zaccheus Wilson, Sr.

James Reese voted for the information of the State of Franklin in 1784, according to Ramsey's Annals of Tennessee, page 288. This James Reese was from Greene County in East Tennessee. This same James Reese was a member of the Legislature of the new state of Franklin. He was considered a great patriot in his day and time, a man of piety, ability and the highest character. He was admitted to the Knox County, Tenn. Court on June 16, 1792. When and where he died, we do not know.

William B. Reese was another early prominent Tennessean. In the 1850's, he was president of the East Tennessee Historical and Antiquarian.

The only Reese living in Smith Co., Tenn. in the 1820 census was Jeremiah. He had two males under ten, two from 10 to 16 years old, one male from 18 to 26, and himself, above 45 years old. Females were: One from 10 to 16, three from 16 to 26, and his wife, above 45. He owned at that time, one slave.

In the census for Smith County for 1830, I find one William B. Reese, living, we would judge from his neighbors, on Dixon's Creek, not far from Dixon Springs, Tenn. His neighbors were Cyrus W. Brevard, Herod Hargis, Coleby Stapp, James Parker, Thomas Wilburn, William Payne, Jeremiah Gammon, James D. Hammock and Robert Wilburn. He had in his family in that year, 124 years ago: One male from 10 to 15, one from 15 to 20, and one from 40 to 50, himself, no doubt. His females were: One female from 15 to 20, one from 20 to 30, and one from 40 to 50, Mrs. Reese, we presume.

In the Smith County census for 1850, we find the following heads of Reece families: Hubbard W. Reece, John Reece, Randolph Reece, Tilman Reece, James T. Reece, Josiah Reece, Williamson Reece, and Wm. Reece.

Judging from the neighbors of these various Reece families, we would say that all of them except Wm. Reece were living 104 years ago on the present Defeated Creek. Wm. is referred to above as probably living on Dixon's Creek, and the census of 1850 confirms us in that view.

Josiah Reece in 1850 was 42 years of age and was born in N. Carolina. His wife was Elizabeth P. Reece, aged 33 years. Their children were: William H., ten; Martha J., 8; John O., 7; Miles, 5; David C. L., 3.

Hubbard W. Reece was born in Tennessee in 1817. His wife was Matilda, born in 1824; in Tenn. Their children: Mary J., 7; John M., 5; Amanda E., 2; and Elizabeth, eight months old.

John Reece was born in North Carolina in 1767. In his family were: Tempy, 35; Wade H., 13; Leroy, 10; Wm. R., 8; Caleb, 12; Emily J., 5; and Tabby, 1.

Randolph Reece was born in North Carolina in 1804. His wife, Mary, was born in Tenn. in 1815. Their children were: Henry, 11; Sarah J., 8; Eliza M., 4; Rhoda Harper, 18; and Emeline, 16. All the children were born in Tennessee.

John Reece was born in North Carolina in 1803. His wife, Sally, was born in the same state ten years later. Their children were: William, 16; Elias S., 14; Lurana, 12; Abraham, 9; Luther, 8; Rough and Ready, two months old. This is exactly as the census records of 1850 for Smith County, Tenn. have the name of the youngest child of John and Sally Reece.

Tilman Reece, born in North Carolina in 1798; wife, Sallie Reece, born in North Carolina in 1800. Children: Lavinia, 21; Martha, 18; Elizabeth, 13; Jerry, 11; Andrew Reece, 8; and Parthenia, 7.

Martha Reece, born in North Carolina, in 1764. Living in her home were the following: Tempy Hewitt, born in North Carolina, in 1797; Elias Reece, born in N. Carolina, 1815; Jane Reece, 39, born in Tennessee. Judy Reece, born in Tenn. in 1831; Moses Givens, born in Tenn. in 1832; Champion Dial, 7; and James Dial, 5.

James T. Reece, born in N. Carolina in 1814. Wife, Elizabeth born in Tenn. in 1820; and their child, Bransford Reece, aged four years. In the same family lived Wesley Searcy, 22, and born in Tennessee and Barbara Searcy, two years younger.

Williamson Reece was born in North Carolina in 1803. His wife, Mary was born in North Carolina in 1812. Children: John, 17; Merlin, 14; Jefferson, 11; Penelope, 10; Ozias, 7; Paul, 5; and Manda, 14.

The last Reece I find in the census records of Smith County for 1850 was William Reece, but we doubt if he was related to the North Carolina group which has just been given. Wm. Reece was born in Virginia in 1820. His wife, Celia, was born in Tennessee in 1819. Their children: Eliza, 9; Tabitha, 8; William A. Reece, 7; Samuel, 5; Byrd, 3; and Richard, one year old.

Now I do not know that the name Reese or Reece is the family alluded to in the heading of this article. Mrs. Monroe can let us know if the names are the same. If they are, we have much additional information as to the family under the spelling Reece or Reese.

Goodspeed's History of Tennessee
Smith County History
Goodspeed Publishing Company
Nashville, TN. 1887
Transcribed by Timothy R. Meador, Jr.
For The Smith County TNGenWeb Project
SMITH COUNTY

The county of Smith is bounded north by Trousdale and Macon Counties, east by Jackson and Putnam, south by DeKalb, and west by Wilson. It lies mostly in the central basin, and is drained by the Cumberland River, which flows through it from east to west, and so divides it as to leave about three-fourths of its area on the south side, and the other fourth on the north side. The tributaries flowing into the Cumberland from the north are Peyton Creek and Defeated Creek, and other smaller streams. The principal one flowing into it from the south is Caney Fork, which is navigable for small vessels about forty miles from its mouth, which is just above the town of Carthage. The spurs of the Highland Rim extend far into the county from the north and east, thus making that part lying north of the Cumberland and east of Caney Fork extremely hilly and uneven. The balance of the county has a more even surface. The streams have broad valleys, and the "the soil of the county, with the exception of the caps of the ridges, rests everywhere on limestone belonging to the Nashville and Lebanon formations, but principally the former. The tops of the ridges present the siliceous rocks of the highlands, being the sub-carboniferous. Immediately below these siliceous rocks, and separating them from the limestone, is the black shale formation."* ["Resources of Tennessee."] The lands having a limestone soil are rich and productive, and those on the highlands produce an excellent quality of tobacco, but the yield is light. The timber is similar to that of Trousdale County.

William Walton, original proprietor of the site of Carthage, settled, according to best information, on the north side of the Cumberland, opposite the mouth of Caney Fork in 1787. He is said to have been the first settler in the territory now composing Smith County. Daniel Burford, **Richard Alexander**, Tilman Dixon, William Saunders and Peter Turney **were among the first settlers in the vicinity of Dixon Springs.** Peter Turney was the father of the noted lawyer, Hopkins L. Turney, and grandfather of Judge Peter Turney, now of the supreme bench of the State. The best agricultural lands being in the vicinity of Dixon Springs, that locality soon became the most thickly settled one in the county. Micajah Duke was an early settler in what is now the Second District; David Apple in the Eight; William McDonald in the Eleventh; Armstead Flippin in the Thirteenth; William Goodall, and James Hodges, with his son Richard, and Arthur S. Hogan in the Fourteenth; and Zachariah Ford in the Fifteenth. Other early settlers were David Cochrane, John Baker, Thomas Dies, George T. Wright and also all persons hereinafter mentioned in connection with the organization of the county. "The grandfather of S. M. Fite, with his family, and two other men, with their families, made the first settlement on Smith Fork, fifteen miles south of the Cumberland River. The first night after camping Mr. Fite had family worship, no doubt the first Christian worship ever made in the vast region.* ["Resources of Tennessee."] When the first settlers appeared in Smith County, they found the territory inhabited with Indians, and many kinds of wild animals, such as bears, wolves, panthers, wild-cats, deer, etc. Wild game was also abundant, and those hardy pioneers, during their struggles to subdue the forest and establish civilization in a vast wilderness, often supplied their families with meat secured by means of their rifles. Bear meat, venison and wild fowl were then common articles of food. The Indians were here about ten years after the first settlers located, and during this time the pioneers, no doubt, had many encounters with them; the history of which, unfortunately, has not been preserved. One incident which occurred in this county before it was settled, between citizens of Sumner County and the Indians, may be related here. "In February, 1786, John Peyton (father of the late Hon. Bailie Peyton); Ephraim Peyton, his twin brother; Thomas Peyton, another brother; Squire Grant and John Frazer were out hunting and surveying. They encamped

on an island in Defeated Creek, near where Capt. C. N. West now resides. On Sunday night they sat up late playing cards, when they were attacked by the Indians. Four out of the five were wounded—all except Ephraim Peyton. They separated and fled leaving their horses instruments. The Indian party was commanded by Hanging Maw. All made their escape and survived, and the next year John Peyton sent word to Hanging Maw to return the stolen horses, to which the chief replied, 'that the horses were his, that he (Peyton) had run away like a coward and left them, and as for his 'land-stealer,' the compass, he had broken that against a tree.'" * ["Reminiscences of Gen. William Hall.] Robert Smith and Lucy Gordon were the first couple married in Smith county, and Richard Hodges and Delilah Risen the second. The latter were married by Arthur S. Hogan, Esq, in 1803.

Large tracts of the best land in the country were entered by surviving soldiers of the war of the Revolution, or by their assignees, by locating the land warrants granted to said soldiers by the State of North Carolina. These tracts ranged from 640 to several thousand acres. The early settlers of Smith County were mostly from North Carolina, Virginia, and East Tennessee, and after erecting their rude log cabins, they began the clearing of their lands, and the raising of the cereals. Subsequently, and for many years, including the decade of the twenties, they raised cotton to a considerable extent, and afterward abandoned its cultivation. The cultivation of tobacco was early introduced and this crop has always been, and still continues to be, a staple production of the county, which ranks as the sixth county in the State in the amount of that article produced. The cultivation of blue-grass, and the raising of fine breeds of cattle were introduced into the county in 1836, by Dr. F. H. Gordon, who was then a teacher in Clinton College. He went to Kentucky and on his return, brought to the farm on which the college is located, a herd of Durham cattle, and began to sow blue-grass for pasture. Since that time considerable attention has been given to the raising of fine breeds of stock of all kinds, and to the cultivation of the grasses. The cereal, and other productions of Smith County, according to the census of 1880, were as follows: Indian corn, 1,071,050 bushels; oats, 47,240 bushels; rye, 3,228 bushels; wheat, 104,945 bushels; orchard products, \$11,927; hay, 2,730 tons; Irish potatoes, 13, 817 bushels; sweet potatoes, 29,335 bushels; tobacco, 1,799,981 pounds; live stock and its production—horses, 5,112; mules and asses, 1,973; cattle, 8,623; sheep, 10,234; hogs, 31,871; wool 40,393 pounds; butter, 221,381 pounds. The population of Smith County in 1860, including that part which has since been attached to Trousdale County, was as follows: White, 12,015; colored, 4,342; nearly all of the latter were then slaves, and in 1880 it was—white, 14,215; colored, 3,578. Notwithstanding the reduction of the territory, and the ravages of civil war, the white population of the county increased 2,200 in the twenty years following 1860, while the colored population decreased 764 during the same period. The transportation of produce and merchandise to and from Smith County has always been by way of the Cumberland River. But the citizens are now anticipating the early completion of the Middle & East Tennessee Central Railroad, and also the Nashville & Knoxville Railroad through the county by way of Carthage. These railroads when completed will be of great advantage to the county, in hastening its future development.

Smith County was organized in accordance with an act of the General Assembly of the State, passed October 26, 1799, providing "That a new county be established by the name of Smith, to be contained within the following described bounds: Beginning on the south bank of Cumberland River, at the south end of the eastern boundary of Sumner County; thence north with the said eastern boundary to the northern boundary of the State, and with the said boundary east to where it is intersected by the Cherokee boundary, run and marked agreeably to the treaty of Holston; thence with that boundary to the Caney Fork of Cumberland River; thence with said fork, according to its meanders, to the mouth thereof; thence down the south bank of Cumberland River, according to its meanders, to the beginning." According to this description Smith County originally contained a portion of what is now Trousdale, DeKalb, Putnam, Jackson, Clay and the greater part of Macon Counties. By an act passed November 6, 1801, the county was changed in size by attaching to it a large portion of Wilson County, lying south of the Cumberland River and west of Caney Fork, and by cutting off a portion on the east side to constitute the county of Jackson. And by a subsequent act of the same session of the Legislature Smith County was extended southward to the line between Tennessee and Alabama—thus causing the county to embrace a strip of territory extending from the northern to the southern boundary of the State. In 1805 an act was passed to reduce the county to its constitutional limits of 625 square miles, still allowing its northern boundary to reach the Kentucky line. And by an act passed January 18, 1842, the northern portion of Smith County became a part of Macon County in its formation. And in 1870 a tract

in the northwestern part of the county was cut off to form a part of Trousdale County. And thus by these and other acts of the Legislature Smith County has been reduced to its present limits, embracing about 360 square miles. **In accordance with the act of creation the first bench of justices of the peace for Smith County, consisting of** Garrett Fitzgerald, **Wm. Alexander**, James Gwinn, Tilman Dixon, Thomas Harrison, James Hibbetts, Peter Turney and Wm. Walton, met at the house of Tilman Dixon, near Dixon Springs, on the 16th of December, 1799, and organized the court of pleas and quarter sessions by electing Garrett Fitzgerald, chairman thereof, and Moses Fisk clerk pro tempore. The next day the following county officers were permanently elected by said court, to wit: Sampson Williams, clerk; John Martin, sheriff; Chas. F. Mobias, coroner; James Gwinn, trustee; Daniel Burford, register; Bazel Shaw, ranger, and Benj. Sewell, State's attorney. Amos Lacy, Silas Jonokin, Robt. Cotton, James Strain, James Wright, Wm. Levington and Henry Huddleston were then appointed constables, and thus the organization of the county was completed. Then on motion of Tilman Dixon it was "ordered that all tavern-keepers be allowed to sell spirituous liquors at the following rates: Good whisky and brandy, 12 ½ cents by the half-pint; for breakfast, dinner and supper, 25 cents; for corn and oats by the gallon, 12 ½ cents; for two bundles of fodder, 2 pence; for pasturage twenty-four hours, 12 ½ cents; for lodging, 6 ¼ cents." The next action of the court was to grant to Tilman Dixon, the mover of the aforesaid motion, a license to keep a tavern at his house. License was then granted to Edmond Jennings to keep a ferry near the mouth of Jennings Creek, at the following rates: "For man and horse, 18 ⅓ cents; single man and single horse, each 9 cents; wagon and team, \$1.25; cattle, hogs and sheep, 6 ¼ cents each." For many years after the organization of the county no person was allowed to keep a tavern, or a ferry, or to build a mill-dam without license from the court, which also established the rates to be charged by the persons obtaining such privileges. Henry McKinsey, Wm. Saunders, Samuel Caruthers, Elisha Oglesby, Wm. Gillespie, Wm. Gilbreath and others were then appointed overseers of certain public roads.

The first grand jury in Smith County, consisting of Grant Allen, Willis Haynie, John Barkley, James Draper, William Pate, Anthony Samuel, James Ballow, William Kelton, Daniel Mungle, John Crosswhite, Thomas Jemison and Nat Ridley were impaneled by the court of pleas and quarter sessions at its March term, 1800. The county not being then divided into civil districts, assessors were appointed to list the taxable property in each captain's company of the militia. The following persons were then appointed assessors for the year 1800, to wit: Garrett Fitzgerald, for the Flinn Creek company; Charles Hudgspath, for the Obed and Roaring River company or settlement; William Walton, for Capt. Vance's company; Thomas Harmand, for Capt. Pate's company; Peter Turney, for the Peyton Creek company; Tilman Dixon, for Capt. Bradley's company; James Hibbetts, for Capt. Shaw's company, and James Gwinn, for Capt. Gwinn's company. Several persons then appeared in court and had their stock marks recorded, it being the custom then to allow the stock to run at large on the unoccupied lands, and each man had his own peculiar stock mark. The bounty on wolf scalps was then established at \$1. And David Venters was allowed to build a mill on Goose Creek near the Big Spring. The same year, 1800, William Saunders was permitted to build a saw and grist-mill on Dixon Creek, about 200 yards below the Blue Spring. The dam was not to be over twelve feet high, and the water was to be drawn off, if requested by Mr. Dixon, by the 15th of June each year. At the June term, 1801, of said court the sheriff returned a long list of delinquent tax lands belonging to non-resident owners. Many of their tracts contained several thousand acres, and all were ordered to be sold to satisfy the taxes and costs charged thereon. The court of pleas and quarter sessions continued to be held at the house of Tilman Dixon until June, 1802, when it was held at the house of William Saunders. And from that time till 1806 it was held alternately at the houses of the said Dixon, Saunders, William Walton and Peter Turney. At the December term, 1804, Willis Jones, Benjamin John and Wilson Cage were appointed commissioners to select and purchase a site for the seat of justice, and to lay out a town thereon, and to sell the lots and appropriate the proceeds to the payment of the land, and the erection of the public buildings. These commissioners selected the site of the present town of Carthage, then owned by William Walton and from him purchased the same, consisting of fifty acres, for the consideration of 1 cent, and secured title thereto by deed dated December 28, 1804. And during that winter they laid out the town of Carthage and sold the lots thereof and erected the first courthouse for the county, on the public square, in 1805. This courthouse was constructed of brick and was about fifty feet square, with four offices and a hall on the first floor, and two offices and the court room on the second. All the rooms had large wood fireplaces. The first term of the court of pleas and quarter sessions held in the courthouse was in March, 1806. This courthouse stood until 1877, when it was taken down and the present one erected in its stead.

at a cost of about \$18,000. This is a substantial two-story brick building of considerable architectural beauty, with the county offices and hall on the first floor and the court room and some small rooms on the second. Col. Fite was the general superintendent of the erection of this building, and Henry C. Jackson, of Murfreesboro, was the contractor and builder. The first jail in the county was built about the year 1812 by James Walton. It was made of logs and contained two rooms, one above the other, and cost about \$700. It stood on the site of the present jail and was replaced by the latter about the year 1835. The old poor-farm on Peyton Creek, consisting of seventy-five acres, was purchased and fitted up in an early day. It was sold in 1871 to Henry, William and Thomas Hacket for \$761, and at the same time another farm containing 211 acres was purchased in the horse-shoe bend of the Cumberland River, in District No. 20 for \$1,200. Buildings were erected thereon and other improvements made, costing about \$3,500. The location of this farm being considered unhealthy, as well as very inconvenient, it was afterward sold and the present one purchased. The latter is situated two and a half miles west of Carthage and contains forty-five acres of good tillable land. The poor asylum, which is a substantial and safe brick building of modern architecture and heated with two furnaces, was erected in 1885 at a cost of \$9,000. At present writing there are fourteen paupers in the asylum.

During the early history of the county, the revenues were not assessed and collected according to the value of the property. To illustrate the method, the rates for the year 1811, which are similar to other years of that period, are here given as established by the then authorities. They are as follows: For county purposes—on each 100 acres of land, 12 ½ cents; each white poll, 12 ½ cents; each black poll, 25 cents; each town lot, 25 cents; each stallion, \$1; each retail store, \$5. For Jurors—on each 100 acres, 6 ¼ cents; each white poll, 6 ¼ cents; each black poll, 6 ¼ cents; each town lot, 6 ¼ cents; each stallion 25 cents; each retail store, \$1. Thus it will be seen that the taxes were levied on specific property, without writing any regard to its value. The taxable property of the county at present writing consists of 202 town lots valued at \$84,835, and 197,279 acres of land valued at \$2,335,195, and personal property valued at \$347,125, and other property valued at \$25,755, making a grand total of taxable property of \$2,792,910. There are also 2,709 taxable polls. The total taxes levied on the foregoing property and polls for the year 1886 amounts to \$32,788.51. The finances of Smith County have always been so well managed that her warrants have seldom if ever been below par. The county is well supplied with public buildings, all of which have been erected without the issuing of bonds. And at present the county has no outstanding bonds or warrants, and is entirely out of debt. The following is a list of the county officers with dates of service: County court clerks—Sampson Williams, 1799-1804; Robert Allen, 1804-12; Joseph W. Allen, 1812, a few months and died; Robert Allen, 1812-19; Jonathan Pickett, 1819-35; John I. Burnett, 1835-48; W. V. R. Hallum, 1848-56; David C. Sanders, 1856-64; E. W. Turner, 1864-68; John P. Yelton, 1868-70; B. F. C. Smith, 1870-1874; Samuel Allison, 1874-82; John B. Jordan, 1882-86; and re-elected. Sheriffs—John Martin, 1799-1802; Lee Sullivan, 1802-04; George Matlock, 1804-12; John Gordon, 1812-16; Wm. Goodall, 1816-27; David Burford, 1827-29; S. B. Hughes, 1829-34; Samuel P. Howard, 1834-38; Wyatt W. Bailey, 1838-44; John Bailey, 1844-48; John Bridges, 1848-52; Samuel Allison, 1852-58; John W. Hughes, 1858-60; B. B. Uhles, 1860-62; Larkin Cornwell, 1862-64; H. S. Patterson, 1864-66; J. H. Smith, 1866-68; J. E. Clark, 1868-70; Wm. Arrington, 1870-72; J. H. Corder, 1872-76; John B. Wilson, 1876-80; Wm. T. Barrett, 1880-84; A. J. Dawson, 1884-86, and re-elected. Registers—Daniel Burford, 1819-25; Alex Allison, 1825-32; Harvey Hogg, 1832-42; A. S. Watkins, 1842-46; David C. Sanders, 1846-54; Quaintance C. Sanders, 1854-58; S. R. Thompson, 1858-62; J. P. McKee, 1864-70; W. P. Pettie, 1870-74; A. N. Williams, 1874-78; Joseph P. King, 1878-80; W. W. Ford, 1880-82; E. B. Price, 1882-86; D. C. Sanders, 1886. Trustees since 1840—David K. Timberlake, 1840-52; A. W. Allen, 1852-54; John P. Haynie, 185-56; Ira W. King, 1856-62; J. H. Newbell, 1862-66; Joseph A. Pendarris, 1866-70; E. H. Knight, 1870-72; D. J. Lynch, 1872-74; D. A. West, 1874-76; S. R. Johnson, 1876-78; N. J. Kemp, 1878-80; W. V. Harrell, 1880-82; W. J. Johnson, 1882-84; J. B. Duke, 1884-86; W. M. Johnson, 1886. Circuit court clerks—Robert Allen, 1810-13; John W. Overton, 1813-20; Charles Sherwood, 1820-23; Wm. Hart, 1823-48; Henry Wm. Hart, 1848-52; N. B. Burdine, 1852-56; Thomas Fisher, 1856-64; Ira W. King, 1864-65; John L. Arendall 1865, March to August; W. J. Cleveland, 1856-66; Thomas Waters, 1866-68; W. B. Pickering, 1868-70; Thomas Fisher, 1870-74; W. B. Pettie, 1874-82; T. B. Read, 1882-86; W. W. Ford, 1886. Clerks and Masters of chancery courts—Robert L. Caruthers, 1825-27; John G. Park, 1827-37; Wm. C. Hubbard, 1837; one term; John G. Park, 1837-38; A. Moore, Jr., 1838, to the civil war; D. H. Campbell, 1865-71;

John A. Fite, 1871-77; Wm. D. Gold, present incumbent ever since 1877. For list of congressmen see history of Sumner County.

The court of pleas and quarter sessions, for many years after its organization, had jurisdiction over all kinds of business, both civil and criminal. One of its early criminal cases was that of the State vs. Dr. Charles F. Mabias. The defendant was indicted for stealing a cow bell, of the value of 6 cents, from one Joseph Cannon. He was tried and found "not guilty," whereupon the costs of the prosecution were all taxed against Mr. Cannon, the prosecutor. This occurred when the court was held at the house of Wm. Saunders. The following novel resignation was discovered in the records of the May term, 1814, of said court:

A justice of the peace, you see,
No longer now I mean to be;
I therefore now resign to you,
As by these lines you see it true.
You therefore now your order may
Give to the clerk without delay,
That he may your right transmit
To the next session when they sit.

--Henry McWhorter.

The last term of the court of pleas and quarter sessions was held in February, 1836; and the first term of the county court, which was established instead of and to succeed the court of pleas and quarter sessions, was held in May, 1836. The county court was then composed of forty-two justices of the peace, all of whom were present and to whom the oath of office was administered by Judge Abraham Caruthers. Exum Whitley was elected chairman of the court. This court is now composed of forty-five justices of the peace, and its present chairman is Irenus Beckwith. The Third Judicial District of the State, including the counties of Smith, Warren, Franklin, Sumner, Overton, White and Jackson, was formed by an act of the Legislature passed November 16, 1809. The circuit court, according to this act, was to be held in Smith County, beginning on the fourth Monday of March and September of each year. The first term of this court was probably held in March, 1810, but the records thereof not being found among the records of the clerk the exact date cannot be given. Hon. Nathan W. Williams was the first judge of the district, and he continued to preside alternately for many years with Judges Archibald Roane, P. W. Humphreys, Thomas Stewart, Bennett Searcy, J. C. Isaacks, Charles F. Keith and others until 1834, since which time the court has been presided over by the following judges, to wit: Abraham Caruthers, 1834-47; Wm. B. Campbell, 1847-51; Alvan Cullom, 1851-52; James T. Quarles, one term in 1852; John L. Goodall, 1852-58; S. M. Fite, 1858-64; Andrew McClain, 1864-69; S. M. Fite, 1869-75; N. W. McConnell, 1875-86; John A. Fite, 1886. The chancery court of Smith County was established by an act of the Legislature passed October 29, 1824, and its first term was begun and held on the third Monday of May, 1825, with Hon. John Catron presiding as chancellor, and Hon. Robert C. Caruthers clerk and master. Prior to 1840 this court was presided over by Chancellors John Catron, Robert White, Nathan Green, Will A. Cook, Wm. B. Reese and Thomas L. Williams, in the order here named. From 1840 to 1860 Hon. Bloomfield L. Ridley was chancellor and presided for forty terms, and then Smith County was changed by act of the Legislature from Ridley's district. Since 1860 the chancery court has been presided over as follows: Josephus C. Guild, 1860-61; Jas. O. Shackelford, 1865-66; Thomas Barry, 1866-67; B. C. Tillman, 1867-69; Charles G. Smith, 1869-70; W. W. Goodpaster, 1870-72; W. G. Cowley, 1872-86; W. W. Wade, 1886—elected. The bar of Carthage has contained many resident members whose reputation for ability was widely extended. Among those who rose to eminent distinction may be mentioned the Hon. Robert L. Caruthers, Judge Abraham Caruthers, Gen. Wm. Cullom, Wm. B. Campbell, the noted jurist, soldier, and subsequent governor for the State; Judge Samuel M. Fite, Hon. James B. Moore, Col. W. H. DeWitt, Capt. W. W. Ward, Capt. J. W. McHenry, Col. Jordon Stokes, Judge John D. Goodall and Hon. Andrew McClain; all too well known to need further mention here. The present bar of Carthage consists of the following honorable gentlemen: E. L. Gardenhire, A. A. Swope, John A. Fite, judge of the circuit court; H. M. Hale, T. J. Fisher, Sr., J. B. Jordon, W. D. Gold, Col. A. E. Garrett, C. W. Garrett, E. W. Turner, B. F. C. Smith, J. B. Luster, W. W. Fergusson, J. M. Fisher, W. V. Lee, L. A. Ligon, the present representative in the State Legislature, and D. A. Witt.

Smith County was represented in the war with Great Britain in 1812-15 by two companies of soldiers commanded respectively by Capt.--Roberson and James Walton. These companies went to New Orleans and participated in that famous battle under the heroic Gen. Jackson. There were four companies of soldiers raised in this county, which served through the Mexican war; two of them, commanded respectively by Capts. Wm. Walton and L. P. McMurry, served in the First Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, commanded by Col. (since governor) William B. Campbell. Capt. Don Allison's company served in a Tennessee regiment of cavalry, commended by Col. Thomas. And soon after entering the service Capt. Allison was promoted to the office of lieutenant-colonel of his regiment. Capt. John D. Goodall's company served in the Fourth Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, commanded by Col. Waterhouse. The first three companies entered the service in 1846, and the latter in 1847, and all served to the close of the war. At the approach of the late civil war there was a strong Union sentiment in Smith County, but being inside the Confederate lines when the war began, no companies of soldiers were organized for the Union Army. Several Union men subsequently joined Federal commands. There were twelve companies raised in Smith County for the Confederate Armies. The first one was raised in April, 1861, and was commanded by Capt. (now judge) John A. Fite. It joined the Seventh Tennessee Regiment. Two other companies, commanded respectively by Capts. W. W. Ward and—Cossett, served in Col. Bennett's regiment. Three companies, commanded respectively by Capts.—James, H. W. Hart and Alex Dillaha, served in the Twenty-fourth Tennessee Regiment. One company commanded by Capt. W. H. McDonald, served in the Twenty-fifth Tennessee Regiment. Capt. Q. C. Sanders' company served in Col. Baxter Smith's regiment of cavalry. Two companies, commanded respectively by Capts. Tom King and A. B. Cates, served in Col. Bartow's regiment of cavalry, and two companies commanded respectively by Capts. H. B. Haynie and William B. Burford, served in other regiments. Including with the companies raised in the county, the individuals who joined companies raised in adjoining counties, it is estimated that fully 1,200 men served in the Confederate Army from Smith County. Being outside of the direct line of march of the contending armies, Smith County did not suffer as much as many other counties from the ravages of war. The first occupation of Carthage by Federal troops took place in February, 1863, when Gen. George Crooks with his command took possession of the town. He was relieved in June following by Gen. Spears, who commanded a brigade of East Tennesseans, and subsequently the town was occupied by Col. Jordon Stokes and his command. From the time Gen. Crooks first occupied it until the close of the war, it was in possession of Federal troops.

Carthage was laid out as heretofore stated in the year 1805, on lands purchased from William Walton, and being the oldest town in a large place of considerable business importance. In 1830 it contained, according to the "Tennessee Gazetter," "about 700 inhabitants, eight lawyers, three doctors, one divine, thirteen stores, four taverns, one grocery, two tailors, two blacksmith shops, one printing office, one tanyard, one male and female academy, one church and a steam grist and saw-mill." As the country became settled other towns were established, which took the trade away from Carthage, so that its business has declined to that of a small village. It now contains, aside from the county buildings, the general store of Joseph Myer & Son, the drug, hardware and furniture store of Capt. T. P. Bridges, two groceries kept by E. B. Price and T. B. Read & Son, the wagon and blacksmith shop of W. I. Chandler, a few other mechanics' shops, two printing presses, three hotels—the Carthage Hotel, the McDonald Hotel and Fisher's Hotel—two schools (one white and one colored), four physicians, five churches (four white and one colored), two livery stables and a lodge each of Free Masons and Good Templars. The names of the physicians are J. S. Cornwell, Frank Swope, H. M. Blair and H. C. McDonald. The population of the town is about 400. The Carthage Mirror and The Record are weekly newspapers, both having a good circulation and both being well sustained. The former was established in May, 1883, by J. B. Luster, who continues its publication, and the latter was established in the fall of 1883, by W. D. Gold, who continues its publication. Dixon Springs contains three general stores, one drug store, one grocery, one saddler's shop, one livery stable, one grist and saw-mill, two hotels, one union church, an academy and a colored school. Gordonsville was established in 1804, and named after John Gordon, its first merchant. It now contains two store, a livery stable, one school, two churches, a tobacco factory, some mechanics' shops, and about 175 inhabitants. Chestnut Mound, in District No. 8, contains three stores, a cabinet shop, livery stable and a school. Elmwood, located east of Cane Fork, contains two stores, one church and the Elmwood Institute. Rome, situated on the Cumberland, at the mouth of

Round Lick Creek, contains several business houses. Monoville, Riddleton, Stonewall, Grant, Lancaster and Middleton are post villages each containing from one to four stores, etc.

According to the custom in all newly settled countries, the children of the first settlers of Smith County were deprived of many educational advantages. As soon, however, as a neighborhood became sufficiently settled, a private school or academy was established therein. There being no free schools, the children of the poor who were not able to pay "rate bills," continued to remain without school privileges. Among the first schools of note in the county was the Geneva Academy established at Carthage in the first decade of the century. This was a county school entitled to the public school fund, meager though it was, of the county. The Carthage Female Academy was established in 1842, and subsequently made a branch of Geneva Academy in order to enable it to draw a portion of the aforesaid public fund. The building of the original Geneva Academy was sold a few years ago, and the Female Academy, which is still sustained, was then opened to both sexes. The most noted school the county has ever had was Clinton College, founded by Dr. Francis H. Gordon, James B. Moores and Willie B. Gordon, and established in October, 1833, on the Lebanon and Trousdale Ferry Turnpike. Dr. F. H. Gordon and Prof. James B. Moores (the latter of whom became an eminent lawyer) were for many years the principal teachers in the college, the doors of which were permanently closed some time during the decade of the fifties. There are several high schools distributed throughout the county, prominent among which are the Elmwood Institute and Dixon Springs Academy. To show how the county is progressing under the free school system, the following statistics are taken from the last published report of the State superintendent of public instruction: Scholastic population—White: male, 2,775; female, 2,440; total, 5,215. Colored: male, 629; female, 626; total, 1,255; Number of pupils enrolled during the year—White: male, 1,461; female, 1,338; total, 2,799. Colored: male, 398, female, 358; total, 756. Number of teachers employed—White: male, 44; female, 12. Colored: male, 14; female, 4; total, 73. Number of schools, white, 56; colored, 17; total, 73. Amount of money expended during the year, \$11,916.79. By comparing the above figures it will be seen that only a little over one-half of the white children attended the free schools while a larger percentage of the colored children were in attendance.

It is thought that the Baptist organized the first religious society in the county, at the house of Grant Allen near Dixon Springs in the year 1799. It is now known as the Dixon Creek Baptist Church. Rev. John McGee, a noted pioneer minister of the Methodist Church, settled near Dixon Springs in 1798, and a meeting-house was built on his land, called the McGee's Meeting-house. And this was no doubt the first Methodist Church in the county.* [Reminiscences of Dr. J. W. Bowen.] Rev. McGee was noted of the active part he took in the great religious revival at the beginning of this century. Other noted pioneer ministers of the county were Revs. John Page, John Maffit, David K. Timberlake, John Mann, David Halliburton, Sr., Jesse Moreland, Stephen B. Lysle, Wm. Cherry, Wm. H. Johnson, Ira W. King and Robt. Trawick. The first church in Carthage was built by the Methodists at the upper end of Main Street soon after the town was established. The next was the present Methodist Church built jointly by the Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians about the year 1830. The Cumberland Presbyterians built their church a few years later. The Baptist and Christian Churches in Carthage are both of recent construction. The first camp-meeting ground, known as the Hodge's camp-ground was established one and a fourth miles west of Carthage. The site of it is now in possession of Horace Oliver. A meeting-house was erected at that point soon after it was settled. The noted evangelist, Lorenzo Dow, preached in Carthage to the soldiers raised for Jackson's army, just before their departure for New Orleans. This was about the year 1813. The Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians were the pioneer Christian denominations of the county, and they have always been, and still continue to be the leading religious sects. The establishment of the Christian Church in the county has been of a more recent date. The people of Smith County are primitive in their habits and customs—generous and hospitable, and sustain a high standard of morality.

Transcriber Note: Transcribed November 2000 for the TNGenWeb Project for Smith County

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