

The Jackson County Family History Book
200 Years of Memories - presented by
The Jackson Historical Society – 1996.

Jackson County Tennessee

Located in the picturesque foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, Jackson County is known as the “Switzerland of the Cumberlands.” Most of the eastern part of the county lies within the Highland Rim physiographic province situated at the foot of the Higher Cumberland Plateau to the east and is part of the greater Appalachian region. The western part of the county lies within the Nashville Basin. There is much rolling land between sharply incised stream valleys.

Earliest history of the region that now comprises Jackson County notes that the area was originally set aside by the Six Indian Nations as a Hunting Ground. The Cumberland River was first known as the Ouasioto; later French explorers called it Shavanon, and in 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker, who was exploring for the Royal Land Company of Virginia, came into the valley and gave the mountains and the river the English name “Cumberland.” In 1775, the Transylvania Company was organized to negotiate with the Cherokee Indians for the purchase of “the country included between the Ohio, Kentucky, and Cumberland Rivers.” Following a treaty signed by the Company and four Cherokee Chiefs, settlers began coming to the area beginning in 1786.

Named in honor of Andrew Jackson, Jackson County was created by an act of the Tennessee Legislature in November, 1801. It is the second oldest of the twenty-three counties in the United States that are named Jackson, only Jackson County, Georgia was founded earlier. The original area of the county covered probably twenty of the present Tennessee counties. Temporary county seats were used until about 1806 when Williamsburg was designated county seat. Williamsburg was named for Sampson Williams, an early pioneer of the area. In 1817, Gainesboro was selected as the permanent county seat and was incorporated in 1820.

The same high hills that give Jackson County its beauty also made travel difficult in the days before paved roads and steel bridges. Both the Cumberland and Roaring rivers cross the county, and river traffic was the lifeblood of the county; with the flooding of the Cumberland River in 1963 by the Cordell Hull Dam, and with the opening of a deepwater port in 1981 near Gainesboro, the river has once again become an important factor in the commercial interests of the county.

Much of the material for a correct and comprehensive history of Jackson County was destroyed when the courthouse burned on August 14, 1872. All county records perished except those of the Chancery Court which were saved due to the fact that Captain Robert A. Cox, Clerk and Master, maintained his office in a private building away from the courthouse.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the county. Additionally, several small industries are located in the county, and artisans have found the area an inspiring place to

produce their pottery, weaving, painting and woodworking. The land area of Jackson County today comprises 327 square miles, and its population in 1995 is 9297. The City of Gainesboro in 1995 has a population of 911.

Big Bottom

Big Bottom took its name from the long stretch of river bottom land bounded on the south side by the Cumberland River, on the north side by wooded hills, and on each end by steep bluffs rising from the river. It reached from Locke's Branch to the bluff below Brimstone Creek. Although it was settled early, the community was somewhat isolated by these natural boundaries until ca 1930 when a road was built around the bluff between Locke's Branch, Moore Bottom and the Cumberland River bridge.

In the long history of Big Bottom, there have been only three church buildings in the community. The first one was a log building called "Old Bethel," an early Church of Christ which was probably established by John Milton Mulkey of Mulkey Meeting House fame. He was instrumental in establishing many churches in the Jackson County area during the Reformation Movement. His wife, Matilda Scantland, was a native of Big Bottom. Old Bethel was already a strong congregation when a typhoid epidemic swept through the community in 1845. Included among the many deaths was that of an elder of the church, Scott McGlasson. Old Bethel ceased to be used when a new building was erected on Smokey Branch in the 1860's. The new building was also used as a school as was the building located near the mouth of Locke's Branch. Since there were no early stores in the community, residents traveled by boat to Butler's Landing and to Sugar Creek or by horseback to Whitleyville for supplies. In the early 1900's stores were operated by Rad Hawkins, Rad Spivey, and Herman Bailey. Mail was received through the post office at Meigsville (Sugar Creek) and later by horseback from the Whiteyville post office. Located near the upper end of the community Walker's Ferry furnished transportation across the Cumberland River. The ferry was later operated by Ben Hix. Steamboats also made regular stops at Locke's Branch, Webster Creek, Rose's Landing and Brimstone.

Various tradesmen furnished needed services to the community. Among them was Henry Kirkpatrick, a former slave owned by William Kirkpatrick. Henry was allowed to grow watermelons to sell to pay for his freedom. He was also a blacksmith, and the general elections were always held at his shop.

Seven cemeteries are found in Big Bottom. Three are on Webster Creek at the Dock Crowder farm, the Hobert Huffines farm, and the Claudie Trisdale farm. Others are the Bedford Hall Cemetery, the Ray Cemetery, the Addison Hall Cemetery, and the Old Bethel, now known as the Hix Cemetery. The latter is one of the oldest cemeteries in Jackson County; at least one Revolutionary War Veteran, Robert Kirkpatrick, and many Civil War veterans are buried there.

Names connected with the early history of Big Bottom include Kirkpatrick, Hall, McGlasson, Rogers, Rose, Walker, Crowder, Toney, Bailey, Sanders, Price, Roberts, Locke, Spivey, and Hawkins. In November, 1818, Robert Scantland bought 250 acres

from James Bodine who had received the tract as part of a 1,097 acre grant issued in January, 1786. This land was located on Bodine's Branch which Scantland renamed Smokey Branch because smoke rising from his neighbor's chimneys hung in the air and gave the hollow a smokey appearance. Today a large part of the land in the community is still owned by descendants of these early settlers.

Burrstown

David Burris once had a general store, gas and kerosene station, a grist mill, and a barter barn located 8 miles from Gainesboro on the Livingston Road (now York Highway). Later Daniel Smith and Bros. took over the complex which took care of the community's needs very well. One could bring live chickens, eggs, a calf, pig, goat, etc. in exchange for flour, salt, lard, sugar, and other staples. Most area people brought their corn to the grist mill and gave up a portion of the meal for the gritting service. The system worked.

Burrstown community reaches just north of Fairview to New Hope, east to and including Greenwood Ridge and west to Old Antioch Road. In days gone by, all of the children went to Greenwood School. There is a variety of churches in the area. Today the Strong family has a general store and gas station. Lynn's Cemetery is in the community.

The "slur" name for a ten mile square area is a "Tick". Supposedly the origin of the name is as follows: In Old Antioch a man had a saw-mill at the edge of a forest which was infested with ticks. The story goes that you wouldn't let your dogs follow your wagon to the mill because it took all evening to get them "deticked." There is no section of the Burrstown area that chooses to call itself Tick.

Prominent families in Burrstown were: Anderson, Barlow, Bull, Carlile, Carwile, Hawkins, Lynn, Poston, Rhoten, Smith (three different families), and Warren.

Center Grove Community

The Center Grove Community is located 7 miles south of Gainesboro on State Highway 56. In 1896 Tobias Haney donated land on which a church building was to be constructed. A group of men cleared the land and began construction of the church building. As the building was nearing completion, there was a great deal of discussion about a name for the church. One of the men said "since it is in the center of a grove of trees, why not call it Center Grove." A community and a church were named. Some of those who were present for this occasion were: Robartis Burris, Logan Flatt, Lewis Fox, and Joe L. Petty.

The original Center Grove Church of Christ building burned and another was constructed large enough to be used as for church meetings and as a school. This building burned and a third one was constructed in the mid 1930's. It was built of stone and was used as a church meeting place and a school. This stone building was a great landmark for the community and in a short while two stores, a mill,

and a blacksmith shop were built near by. The community prospered and many new homes were constructed after World War II. In the 1950's schools were consolidated in Jackson County. The Center Grove School was closed and a new church building was constructed and the old stone church/school building was converted into a auto service station. It burned in 1970.

A new church building was constructed in 1982 and the Center Grove Community continues to grow with more and more residents of the community leaving farming and working in factories in Gainesboro and Cookeville. However, it is still a community of neighbors helping neighbors as needs arise.

Dodson Branch

The early land records found in the Tennessee State Library and Archives record the following land sale to "Sampson Williams—50 acres West Fork of Roaring River—including place where Nimrod Dodson lately lived, where Susanna Rutledge now lives.—March 31, 1812" (This proves that Nimrod Dodson lived here prior to 1812.) Most old records gave locations as directions from Cumberland or Roaring River, so the direction of Dodson Branch flowed to Roaring River by Spring Creek. That is the reason for saying "West Fork." (West Fork originates at a spring on the farm of Lonnie Maberry between Highway 135 and Old Dodson Branch Road.

Spring Creek Baptist Church was organized on July 12, 1802. Thomas McBride was the Moderator. On December 11, 1802, the Church agreed to build a meeting house; on April 21, 1804, the Church received by letter Nixnrod and Elizabeth Dodson. On June 15, 1804, the Church chose Nimrod Dodson to be a deacon and also to be Clerk. On July, third Saturday, the Church agreed that a meeting house be built "In one mile of Spring Creek." This building sat on a hilltop three hundred yards west off of Highway 135 in Dodson Branch. Of course the building is gone, but the Old Cemetery is still there. The distance between the old church site and where Nimrod Dodson lived (West Fork) is one mile. On October 20, 1804, George Gear and Nimrod Dodson were asked to collect all of the names of the Church members; eighty-nine names were entered in the minutes as members. Since there were Baptist Churches also located on Roaring River and Blackburn's Fork, this number would indicate that Dodson Branch was fairly heavily populated.

The Dodson Branch Freewill Baptist Church was organized in 1868 with Jay Burriss taking a very active part in its work. It continues to be a leading light in the community, and many early settlers are buried in its cemetery. A brief history of some early settlers follows:

The Allen Family. The earliest record of Allens indicate that John Allen, born 1670, came to Jackson County from Virginia or North Carolina. His son, Joseph, was born in North Carolina in 1699, and George Allen, son of Joseph, was born in Virginia in 1738. Jesse Allen, son of George, was born in 1782 and came to Jackson County from North

Carolina. Hugh Porter Allen, born June 15, 1822 in South Carolina, came to Jackson County and settled in the Dodson Branch Community where he and many of his descendants are buried in the Dodson Branch Cemetery.

Jim Rector lived in the community in the late 1700's. His birthplace and the date of his birth are unknown. He married Nery Bernet, and they had ten children. One son, William (born ca 1830) married Mary Moore, and they had twelve children. Riley Rector, son of William, was born November 18, 1866.

Duny Smith was born in the Dodson Branch community. He married Sally Fry, and they raised five children. In the early 1800's, he owned a large amount of land in the Hard Scrabble area—the Dodson Branch Freewill Baptist Church sits on some of that property. His son Sy, born in 1854, married Sarah Ray, and they raised six children: Wait, Evie, Cora, Sarah Jane, Herman and Ozina. Sy and Sarah are buried in the Dodson Branch Cemetery.

William Jackson was listed in the 1850 Jackson County Census as being 75 years old; his wife Elizabeth was 70. Both were born in South Carolina. Their son Hiram was born in South Carolina in 1805, and their second son, Enoc, was born in 1812 in Tennessee. Some time between 1805 and 1812, the family settled on Step Rock Road or Spring Creek in Dodson Branch. Enoc later owned property near Spring Creek Baptist Church. He is buried in the Dodson Branch Cemetery. Curry Lee was born December 25, 1794 and came to Jackson County from North Carolina.

He was a veteran of the War of 1812. He married Polly Hawkins, daughter of Joseph Hawkins. He was a member of Spring Creek Baptist Church from May, 1828 until his death on June 21, 1871. He is buried in the Dodson Branch Cemetery.

William C. (Bud) Burrough (Burriss) was born in North Carolina on January 10, 1857. He came to Jackson County in his early youth and settled on Blackburn's Fork. Later he moved to Dodson Branch, and the family name became known as "Burriss." He was known as "Uncle Bud" by everyone in the community. He married Polly Anderson, and they were the parents of five children, Their son, Jay Burriss, is mentioned earlier.

Levi Steward was born in Jackson County on June 26, 1844. When he was 19 years old he enlisted in the United States Army on October 21, 1863 for service during the Civil War on the side of the North. He was discharged on December 13, 1864. On January 22, 1867, he married Harriette Henly, daughter of William Henly. The marriage was performed by Reverend Joel Henly, Moderator of Spring Creek Baptist Church.

Other early settlers were Francis Mabrey, Seth Mabrey and Seth Mabrey, Jr., John Henly, and Joseph Hawkins. Their stories appear elsewhere in this book.

The History of Flynn's Lick, Tennessee
as told By Fred L. Haile, Sr. to Fred L. Haile Jr.
on August 29, 1968

Flynn's Lick got its name from a man named Flynn who lived here: deer would come to the creek area and lick for black sulphur which had a salty taste.

Amon Haile settled here from North Carolina in approximately 1790, before Tennessee became a state. He was a Revolutionary soldier and took up a lot of land along a creek now known as Flynn's Creek. He owned both (now) Shakerag and Buffalo, and Lewis Jones (Hub's Lewis) now lives at the old homestead. His family was Joshua Haile, Nathaniel Haile, Charlie Haile, and Dudley B. Haile, and two daughters.

Dudley B. Haile married Julie Richmond and settled at what is now the Tom Haile place. Joshua Haile married and settled at what is now the Fred L. Haile place and before that the Marion Johnson place. Nathaniel Haile died in early life. Charlie Haile went to Texas and became an attorney. Dudley B. Haile had 3 sons: James Amon Haile, Dudley B. Haile, Jr., and Frank Haile, and 7 daughters. Dudley B. Haile was a farmer, a livestock trader, and a minister. Joshua Haile was a farmer and a Methodist minister. His sons were Marlin, Charlie, and Dave. Marlin Haile was Benton Haile's grandfather. Marlin Haile was Postmaster at Flynn's Lick and had a general store known as M. C. Haile and Son (Benton Haile).

James Amon Haile married Rosaline Stickney Gailbreath, and their family was Henry Haile, Tom Haile, Fred L. Haile, Hubert M. Haile, Leona Haile, Lille Haile, Bessie Haile, and James A. Haile, Jr. (who died early). Henry Haile operated the first store on the west side of Flynn's Creek at Flynn's Lick. This was in approximately 1890. Henry Haile later moved to Gainesboro and became a grocery salesman. Marlin Haile bought Henry Haile's store at Flynn's Lick and operated it until his death. After the death of Marlin Haile, H. M. Haile (Hub) and Herman Haile (son of Frank Haile) bought the store. About 1917 Fred L. Haile and Tom Haile bought the store and operated it as Haile Brothers. Later Fred Haile bought out Tom Haile and it became Haile's Store. Hub Haile moved to Gainesboro and opened Haile's Grocery which he operated until his death.

At one time Flynn's Lick was incorporated as a School District by the Tennessee State Legislature. Flynn's Lick Academy was built on property donated by Dudley B. Haile. People came from all over the Upper Cumberland, Jackson, and adjoining counties. A large dormitory was built near the school building. This property was school grounds until the present school was built at Flynn's Lick.

Joe Johnson came to White's Bend approximately 1875 and settled on a farm which is still in the Johnson family. His children were James Marion Johnson, Nannie Johnson (who married Benton Morgan), and Dona Johnson (who married Martin LoRis). These were by his first wife. Children by another marriage were (Elizabeth Whitaker), John R Johnson, Wash Johnson, Oliver Johnson, Corner Johnson, Luther Johnson, Etta Johnson,

Carrie Johnson, and Cora Johnson (who married Riley Loftis).

Marion Johnson married Fannie Darwin, and they lived up in the Camel Lynn Hollow. They later moved to a farm now owned by the Hyton Brown heirs. Then they moved to a farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Haile (Mrs. Haile is his daughter Maggie) where he farmed and was a merchant at Flynn's Lick.

Cooper and Brown were operating a store on the east side of Flynn's Creek. They later sold to Willie McDearman, and the store was operated as Flynn's Lick Mercantile Company with W. M. Draper as manager. Later Marion Johnson and Charlie Darwin bought the store and operated it as Johnson and Darwin. Charlie Darwin later moved to Gainesboro and sold his interest to Fred Johnson. The business became J. M. Johnson and Son. This was in approximately 1907. Fred Johnson later moved to Watertown, Tennessee, and he and his father sold the store to George Johnson and Oliver Johnson which is now operated by George Johnson and still known as Johnson's Store.

For several years the creek was the road. In 1914 Jackson County voted some road bonds, and the road was taken out of the creek and built alongside the creek which served as such with a ford at Flynn's Lick between the two stores. In 1934, the Tennessee Highway Department built a new highway through a large field owned by Marion Johnson. Then Johnson's Store, Flynn's Lick Methodist Church, Dr. L. R. Anderson's house, and George Johnson's and Oliver Johnson's homes were moved up to the new highway. The George Johnson's house was remodeled and moved into by, Oliver Johnson and his family. Their former house was moved beside Dr. L. R. Anderson and later lived in by Bill Brown and his family after Dr. Anderson moved to Gainesboro.

Flynn's Lick has graduated some important people who, after having swam in the many swimming holes, have gone out in life to become outstanding citizens and have contributed something to the welfare of many people.

Fort Blount

One of the most important historical sights in Jackson County is that of Fort Blount which is located on the Cumberland River two miles northwest of the village of Flynn's Lick.

In 1787, a road called the Avery Trace was cut through the wilderness from North Carolina via Flynn's Creek crossing of the Cumberland River and on to French Lick (Nashville). Because of the threat of attack from the Cherokee Indians to the settlers using the Avery Trace, Governor William Blount ordered a fort to be built at the Cumberland crossing, and in about 1791 construction was begun. Originally known as "Big Lick Ganison" or the "Block House on the Cumberland," the military fort was officially named for Governor Blount and was manned by a militia of between fifteen and thirty men. The fort was situated approximately fifty yards from the mouth of a creek. It consisted of four block houses, one at each corner of a square of near one and one and

half acres. There was a picket of timber set in between the houses, and the gate faced the creek. Water was supplied by a spring on the grounds. Although Fort Blount was not maintained as a military fort after 1796, settlers traveling on the Avery Trace made welcome use of it as a stopover and refuge on their journey westward.

A letter written in 1930 by L. F. Myers to R Garland Draper describes Fort Blount as he remembered it in later years. The following is quoted as he wrote it:

“The house sed to be the fort was on the Bluff above high water mark. I would think it was fifty yards or more from the mouth of a branch. The Bluff on which the Old Fort was bilt was below the Old Boat landing and the approach to the ferry to the left of the Road going in and to cross over to Williamburgh. I no of no one who could give information further along this line. When the company of John P. Murry and Sid S. Stantons crossed at Fort Blount in 1862, Col Stanton and Murry and Major Tim Williams and the Bugler set on their horses that stood on the ground of the old Fort. A loud yell came out when the blast of the bugle went out over the river, a yell, “Who Roy” for Fort Blount, Jeff Davis, and the Confercey. Tha crossed over the river and camped on the Old Muster ground near William Burgh.”

Nothing remains now of Fort Blount; however the Fort Blount Chapter of the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities has recently been organized with the express purpose of restoring/rebuilding this historic site.

Free State

During the early 1800's, the entire Cumberland River bend now known as Free State was owned by Major William Woodfolk. He also owned a large tract of land at Fort Blount; both tracts of land are presumed to have been grants. Although the land at Fort Blount was worked by slave labor, the river bend land was worked by white labor. Consequently the land was originally known as the “Free Estate” and colloquialized into the present name of Free State. Woodfolk went broke, and all of his land was sold through Federal Court circa 1877. The Free State area was divided into sixteen tracts with the following citizens purchasing land: B.H. Shepherd, W. M. Stephens, McKahan and Cox, Tommy G. Smith, Millard Lawless, C. N. “Curry” Hawkins, John Bell Dudley, J. A. “Bud” Montgomery, Jesse Heady, Jim T. Anderson, and Jonas G. Dudley.

In 1880, William Henry Harrison Dudley purchased tract 6 from B. H. Shepherd and gave the land for a community church and school. The first church building was built on the exact spot where the present building now stands; it was destroyed by a storm in March, 1912. The second church house was built during the summer and fall of 1913 at a cost of \$565.27. When the land was given by “Uncle Bill” Dudley and a meeting house was built, all religions had the privilege to use the facility as they desired. The building was also used as a community school until 1950; in the early years there was one teacher for grades one through

eight. A second teacher was added in the 1930's.

Many descendants of the early residents of Free State still live in the community. The children 'now attend the consolidated elementary school in Gainesboro, but the Church continues to meet regularly in a third building erected in 1960 on the site of the original building.

Gainesboro

An act of the Legislature of November 6, 1801 provided that the first court of newly established Jackson County should be temporarily held at the house of John Bowen on Roaring River until a town to be named Smithfield was "laid off" and established. Smithfield never came into being. On September 11, 1806, Williamsburg was established as the county seat. Later, the Legislature passed an Act to ascertain the center of Jackson County. Following the survey, and election was to be held to determine whether to keep the county seat at Williamsburg or to remove it to the more centrally located site and to establish a town named "Gainesborough" in honor of General Edmund Pendleton Gaines. For reasons unknown the vote was never held; another act was passed for the same purpose. In August, 1818 the vote moved the county seat to the new location, and on October 1, 1819 Gainesborough became the county seat.

The newly appointed County Commissioners advertised in the Knoxville Register and the Carthage Gazette for lots to be sold at auction. The proceeds from the sale provided funds to build a courthouse and jail. Forty acres of land was donated by David Cox, and sixty-three lots were sold. Gainesboro was incorporated in 1820.

The first courthouse was a brick structure which burned in 1872. Its replacement was condemned in 1902, and the third courthouse burned in 1926. The fourth and present courthouse was built in 1927. The streets were macadamized in 1849 though true pavement was to come much later. Early hotels and "public houses" were the Eaton Tavern, operated by Joseph and Elizabeth Dudley Eaton, the Clemons Tavern owned by John Clemons; and a tavern run by Robert White. "Aunt" Polly Williams operated a hotel for fifty years; the Harley Hotel stood on the southeast corner of the square and was replaced by the Shamrock Hotel which was built circa 1926 and which closed in the 1950's.

In 1860 the town boasted eight lawyers, one shoemaker, four school teachers, eight merchants, five whiskey stores, a sheriff, two constables, one drugstore, and various weavers, spinners and tailors. The town's physicians were Dr. Z. M. Young, Dr. Nathan Montgomery, Dr. W. R. Kenner, Dr. David Fink, and Dr. S. F. Maui. Mounce G. Butler was the first United States Congressman from Gainesboro. He was defeated for reelection in 1906 by Cordell Hull who had practiced law in Gainesboro before moving to Carthage, Tennessee. Hull won by fourteen votes.

Gainesboro was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Granville

The village of Granville, Tennessee is located in southwestern Jackson County near the Cumberland River on the banks of Martin's Creek. From the early nineteenth century until the late 1920's, the river with its steamboats provided most of the commercial contacts for the people in the area. In 1972 with the coming of the Cordell Hull Reservoir, Granville has become a lakeside community with a marina and several camps for fishing and other water sports. The larger community includes the areas known as Holleman's Bend, Martin's Creek, Indian Creek, Liberty, Big Branch, Spring Fork, Nameless, and across the river Brooks Bend and Smith's Bend.

Incorporated by the legislature in 1837-38, Granville became an area hub for farm commerce; it boasted several general stores, a blacksmith shop, a bank, a Masonic Lodge, saloons, a post office, a funeral home, four churches and a hotel. Several physicians practiced in Granville, and farmers bought the supplies and produce for their operations in the nearby bottoms and low lands. In turn, they hauled or drove their farm products to Granville for shipment to market by boat. At one time, Granville hosted traveling circuses and medicine wagon shows. One resident remembers the circus wagon trains coming down the Shepherdsville Road from Gainesboro and setting up to perform in the field that now lies under the approach to the old iron bridge just north of Martin's Creek.

Hayenburg

Haydenburg was first known as "Hog Camp." Located in the fourth civil district of Jackson County, it is on a narrow strip of land approximately five miles long and no wider than a half mile at its widest place. Along its narrow ridge were many persimmon trees and beech groves that provided an abundance of fruit and beech mast or nuts. In the autumn before driving their hogs to the river to be shipped to the market, farmers would put their hogs in rail fence pens to eat the mast and fatten them, and the area was therefore called Hog Camp.

A general merchandise store and a blacksmith shop comprised the first commercial buildings of Hog Camp. As the population grew, a need arose for a post office, and a portion in the back corner of the store was partitioned off and became the post office. When all the postal equipment was in place, a postal inspector named Mr. Hayden came for final inspection and approval. He asked if the post office would be called the same thing as the small community—Hog Camp—whereupon someone suggested that the post office be named Haydenburg and that was agreed upon. The Haydenburg Post Office opened on July 1, 1887. Postmaster Peter J. Clark started out with a stamp inventory of \$16.09. For the first month he sold seventy-four cents worth of stamps; for the first quarter his stamp sales amounted to \$2.22. The Haydenburg post office was discontinued on

December 31, 1965 and transferred to Whitleyville.

Nameless

The Nameless community lies in the southwest corner of Jackson County; its population today consists of approximately one hundred and fifty people scattered over a wide area of family farms. The following story has been circulated over time as to how Nameless got its name:

William M. Neill was a farmer in the community in the late 1870's. He had served in the Civil War with George Morgan. Mr. Morgan later became Attorney General, and Mr. Neil continued his friendship with him. In an effort to honor Mr. Morgan, Neill petitioned the United States Postal Service to establish a post office in his community and to name the office "Morgan." Although the Postal Service agreed to the establishment of a post office in the rural community, the request for the name was denied. The authorities gave no reason for their denial of the name "Morgan," but many citizens felt that the United States Government was reluctant to name any establishment in honor of someone who had served, however honorably, in the army of the Confederate States of America.

When the Postal Service wrote to Mr. Neill requesting him to submit another name for the new post office, Mr. Neill replied that he would prefer that "the office remain nameless rather than have anything other than Morgan for a name"—and so it did. Nameless Post Office was established and flourished until early in the twentieth century.

An elementary school, two stores, and churches made up the business section of Nameless community. In the 1930's the Nameless school was famous for its basketball prowess. The school was sometimes a one-teacher school and other times a two-teacher school. The number of pupils held steady at sixty to sixty-five students, but many of the upper grade students were sixteen and seventeen years old. Students remained in the seventh and eighth grade levels for two or three years—not for academic reasons but for basketball! Better roads and subsequent opportunities for transportation resulted in the Nameless school being consolidated with other county schools, and by the 1950's most children in the community were bussed to larger schools.

Nameless today consists of the same number of people, and the churches still meet regularly. However, the stores and the school are no longer used. The Nameless Volunteer Fire Department and the Nameless Community Center are vital components of the community and enjoy the support of its citizens. Because the story of Nameless has appeared in a book ("Blue Highways") and in several periodicals and newspapers, many tourists have detoured from their travels on

Interstate 40 or Highway 70 to find this interesting place.

North Springs

North Springs is a farming community located in the northwestern part of Jackson County on the headwaters of Jennings Creek. It was settled in the early 1800's. Some of the many tributaries flowing into Jennings Creek along the winding fertile bottomland are Hudson Creek named for Obidiah Hudson, Crabtree Creek which was first known as Garrison Fork, and Hunting Creek.

Lower North Springs was first called Gum Springs and was a thriving community with several stores and a "subscription school." Among the pupils were Betty Clark; Creighton and Helen Jenkins; Brocket, Sam, Lol and Gilbert Jenkins; Martha, Press, and Nettie Crabtree; Rose and Bee Tinsley (the daughters of Pembroke Tinsley); Bob Lee and Lula Draper (children of Asberry Draper); Destic and Nathan Craighead; Bee and Dona Herod; Sara Wilson; Bedford Cunningham; Molly and Bennett Hudson; Sampson and Linnie Sneed; Kit and Ellen Keith; Nettle, Lena, and George Graves.

Upper North Springs boasted a post office called Cabenet. Teels Chapel Church of Christ was one of the earliest congregations in the county; it was subsequently named Beech Grove. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church was organized July 18, 1875 and was later known as the United Baptist Church of Christ.

A large elementary school and two-year high school was located at North Springs until the schools were consolidated and moved to Gainesboro.

Other early families that settled in the North Springs area were Graves, Teels, Clarks, Davises, Sadlers, Crabtrees, Hudsons, Keiths, Forkums, Strodes, and Cassettys. Many of these families are still living in the area.

Pine Lick

One of the earliest blazed trails for the early settlers advancing north was along Pine Lick Creek. Beginning at Whitleyville and using the creek bed, this was the nearest route into Kentucky. The are was soon settled by people interested in the virgin forest and in small farming. Lemuel Cherry owned a sugar camp where he tapped maple and sugar trees to make syrup.

At the cave spring where the Roddys lived, a mill town was established and became known as "Star Lite." Small houses were erected for mill workers, and according to Warner Jones, a hotel was built that was known as the Jenkins Hotel. Presumably the hotel was a boarding house for mill workers. The Upper Pine Lick School was located at "Star Lite." Both Pine Lick Schools were consolidated with

the new Whitleyville School in 1948.

Four miles south of the mill town was an area known as Willow Grove. The first school was small and was called "Chicken Coop." The Willow Grove Church of Christ has been there for many years although the early building was washed away in the January, 1946 flood and was relocated to Keeling Branch in 1948 where it continues to serve.

The Civil War left its mark on the community. General Bragg and his forces made raids into Kentucky along this route—a fact which has been documented by the Tennessee Historical Society's marker placed near the mouth of Pine Lick Creek and which says "Bragg Invades Kentucky." James Price, the schoolteacher at Pine Lick School at Starlight placed his pupils on a fallen log on the school grounds to watch General Bragg and his army pass by on their way to the Battle of Penysville.

Cherrys, Dentons, Roddys, Carters, Bilbreys, Prices, Hixes, Keelings, Painters, Gaines, McKaughans (McCoins), and Savages are among those early settlers of the Pine Lick and Keeling Branch area.

Shiloh

Shiloh is located in the southeastern part of Jackson County on the Cummins Mill Road one mile off the Gainesboro/Cookeville grade (Highway 290). The name came from the biblical Shiloh located in Palestine.

The original building at Shiloh was a small one-room building dating back to the early part of the twentieth century that was used as a meeting place for the Church of Christ and for a one-teacher school. Later a two-room building was erected which was used for church services and for school employing two teachers. Years later when the Jackson County schools were consolidated, all of the small schools—including Shiloh—were closed down. The Shiloh property that was owned by the county has been developed into three new buildings, namely; a Church of Christ building, a day care center, and a very nice community center which is put to great use by the citizens.

Some of the historic families of the Shiloh community are as follows: William "Little Dad" Pippin, his wife Winnie and 10 children; John Red and Pizetta Pippin and 7 children; Arthur and Bessie Thomas and 13 children; Murdie and Annie Fox and 4 children; Marion and Prillie Mayberry and 4 children; Boone and Pearlie Anderson and 6 children; Mack and Sarah Meadows and 4 children; Howard and Lillie Knight and 7 daughters; Dan and Jan Allen and 9 children; Cook and Manerva Men and 4 children; and Calvin Denton "Cab" and America Anderson and 7 children. Many descendants of these early families continue to live in the community and to serve it well. The Cook Allen family and the "Cab" Anderson

families have provided ten schoolteachers: Ruth, Cecil, Elizabeth, and Wayne Allen and Lena, Liza, Vera, Margie, Rose Mary and Avo Anderson.

Smith's Bend

The following story is told by Frances Smith Carter, great-great-granddaughter of John Campbell Smith for whom Smith's Bend is named. This area is where Williamsburg, the original county seat of Jackson County was located. Fort Blount predated Williamsburg and was established to protect the settlers who travelled the Avery Trace westward to French Lick (Nashville) Tennessee. This story originally appeared in the Jackson County Sentinel.

"...in our game of Cops and Robbers, the culprit was fastened in the old log hen house.. .we little realized how appropriately we had chosen our place of incarceration. This old log hen house was the former first jail of Jackson County, built around 1806.

"We children vaguely knew that this was the site of the location of Williamsburg.. .The true historic fame of this setting was very remote to us at that time. We only knew it as the friendly Baugh Ragland's family home on the old Fox Farm near Fort Blount Ferry. It was a favorite gathering place for all of the Smith's Bend children

"...We were fascinated with the isolated graveyard.. .aware that these four tombstone were of important people, but that was the extent of our interest at that time. Being the kind of people that Sampson Williams, Andrew McClellan, and their wives were, I'm sure they would have been glad to know that joyful shouts and laughter of children rang over their graves instead of utter silence.

"...We continued as teenagers to 'hang out' on this large Ragland family's yard. On the very same ground where Sampson Williams and Andrew Jackson had planned political and military strategy, we square danced to the music of the Grand Ole Opry on moonlit Saturday nights.

"Nearby, the site of Fort Blount was an attraction for us as children and teenagers.. .The Cumberland River at this location got very shallow in the summer time. There was a gravel bar that extended from the Smith Bend side to the middle of the stream... .(that) was like a beach to us. We went there to wade, swim and canoe. This section at the ferry site was often crowded on a lazy, hazy afternoon when people from other communities and counties came to relax and visit also.

“You might say (that) Fort Blount was still serving its purpose as a protector of people. It kept the young people near home where the adults were usually also present.

“The Fort Blount Ferry boat shortened the distance between Smith’s Bend and Gainesboro by nearly twenty miles.. .I remember dozing or studying in the care as we waited for the slow ferry boat to get to our side of the river. Sometimes the motor would stall and the boat would drift down stream. Mr. Benton Shoemake’s capable hands would soon get the motor going again and finally the ferry would reach our side....

“...the last (of these old Williamsburg buildings) – old jail house, the little drug store, and White’s Tavern – were torn down around 1970. I would truly appreciate them now as nostalgic remembrances and as true roots of our county’s heritage.”

Sugar Creek

The entire community surrounding Sugar Creek was originally known as Meigsville. It was a fortunate place for it had not only wonderful people but also a post office, a church, and a school. Most of the community activities centered around traditional old-fashioned fun and activities. Many of the activities were musical in nature and included singings, banjo and fiddle playing, and dances such as the Virginia Reel and square dancing.

The women often gathered to quilt, but other sewing projects were often solitary ones. The ladies made all of the necessities of life from the gathering of the wool to carding and spinning yard and then weaving and sewing the garments together. Some items like socks and gloves were knitted, and these activities were often done in groups. Idle time was not to be found for anyone in the community; everyone had chores to do that kept the family housed, fed, and clothed. Fun times and family gatherings were enjoyed following the harvest and preservation of foods for winter and included such activities as popping corn, gathering nuts, and pulling taffy. Lighting needs were met by candles made from the rendered fat of their raised animals which were slain for food.

The community became known as Sugar Creek because of the many beautiful sugar maple trees lining the creek bed. These trees yielded the flavorful sap that was made into maple syrup. Children and adults alike looked forward to “mapleing time,” and it was one of the social highlights of the community. Residents of Sugar Creek also point out that the people of the community were sweet people who called this area of Jackson County home.

Stone

Stone is a beautiful residential community located on the north side of the Cumberland River beginning at the Ben Wade Stone Memorial Bridge. It is one of the very early settlements of Jackson County.

Smith County, Tennessee court records dated December 18, 1799 show that Edmond Jennings was allowed a ferry near the mouth of Jennings Creek. His rates were set as follows: for a man and horse, 18 1/3 cents; for a wagon and team, \$1.25; cattle, including hogs and sheep 6 1/4; for a pack horse, same as a man and a horse. Later a landing known as Lee's Landing was located there. Boats were the only mode of transportation and means of receiving and dispersing products of the area.

Stone was first known as White's Chapel. Later the name was changed to Stone in honor of Mrs. Ida Stone in whose home a post office was located. In the early 1800's, High McKaughan Owned and cleared the land where the present Rob Draper Memorial Cemetery is located. His mother, Rebecca Boyd McKaughan died in 1816 near the age of one hundred years, and she was buried there. Her burial marked the beginning of that cemetery.

In 1844 a petition was issued to relocate Gainesboro, the county seat, to the area between the cemetery and the south side of Jennings Creek. The petition failed for lack of votes.

Bob Meadows, the noted river boat captain lived in Stone, Other early citizens were Heady, Upchurch, McCoin (McKaughn), Dennis, Sadler, VanHooser, White, Johnson, Butler, Lovelady, and Willmore families.

White Plains

At the time that Tennessee was admitted to the Union, most of the wilderness now know as the Upper Cumberland Country was a part of Sumner County. Smith County was formed from Sumner County in 1799, and part of Jackson was carved from Smith County in 1801. Overton and White Counties were established in 1806, and Putnam County was established in 1846 from parts of Jackson, Overton, Fentress, and White Counties. At one time, the counties of White, Jackson, and Overton cornered on a large chestnut tree located on the north side of the Walton Road at White Plains. The tree stands today on the farm of Mrs. Martha Summers Shanks.

Old settlers tell us that the middle section of what is now Putnam County was a prairie covered with tall grass which furnished pasturage for large herds of buffalo, deer, and wild horses. No doubt this came about as a result of annual fires purposely set by the Indians to foster the growth of the grass. At the western foot of the mountain on the Walton Road was the settlement of White Plains. William Quarles, pioneer and Revolutionary War soldier, left Bedford County, Virginia with his large family and several slaves for Duck River which he had heard was a very rich country. After traveling for a month, the party encamped at White Plains on Christmas Day, 1809, and William decided to spend the winter there. Soon there were other settlers nearby and a general store, blacksmith shop, and a post office which were all widely patronized. Although there was a tavern and stand at White Plains to accommodate travelers, Judge Quarles' home was always open to friends. Many notable people accepted his free hospitality in preference to going to the tavern. Three presidents drank from the well there; General Jackson was a regular visitor as he traveled to and from the White House and to court in Kingston, Tennessee. On one of these occasions, Mrs. Jackson accompanied him and spent the night. She assisted Mrs. Quarles in working on a quilt. That quilt is presently in the possession of Mrs. Sid Maddux, a descendant of William Quarles.

In 1783, William Quarles married Nancy Anne Hawes in Carolina County, Virginia after an engagement of seven years. Their children were:

1. Tabitha Tompkins "Tabby" (b. 1784) married William Hawes, her first cousin.
2. Mary Goodloe "Polly" (b. 1786) married Harrison Irby Hughes.
3. Nancy Hawes (b. 1788) married William Burton.
4. Elizabeth Jane (b. 1790) married (in 1814) Charles Burton (December 14, 1808).
5. William Hawes (b. 1792) married Ruth Hyder.
6. Frances Dorothy (b. 1794; d. 1830) married William Little.
7. James Tompkins (b. May 26, 1796; d. 1879) married Mary Diana Simpson.
8. Sara Wesley (b. 1798) married Adam Huntsman.
9. John Adam(s) (b. 1800; d. January 18, 1877) married (on June 22, 1825) Martha Lampton "Patsy."
10. Catherine Baxter (b. 1802) married William Snodgrass.

There is an interesting relationship with John Adams Quarles and the family of Mark Twain. John A. Quarles married Patsy Lampton, a sister of Jane Lampton who was married to John Marshall Clemens of Jackson County. Mr. Clemens is described in John Oscar Blakney's book, *The Quarles and Some Collaterals*, as "a good enough sort of fellow, a dreamer of dreams that never came true, and a financial and business failure."

John and Patsy Quarles moved to Florida, Missouri, about 1830. His record as a farmer and merchant marked him a notable man, full of humor, thoroughly reliable and resourceful. He was elected county judge of Monroe Co., Missouri. The Clemens family joined the Quarles family in Missouri in 1832, and thus Florida, Missouri became the birthplace of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). Samuel Clemens spent his boyhood summers enjoying the hospitality of his Uncle John's family; he hunted, fished, and engaged in all the sports of that era in a new country. Many legends survive of John A. Quarles' whimsical humor, and some of his stories have been immortalized in the literature of his distinguished nephew. This association, together with the slaves on the Quarles plantation, provided the seed that was to produce ideas for some of Mark Twain's stories.

White's Bend

William White came to Jackson County from Wake County, North Carolina. He had served in the Continental Army, and records in the Tennessee Archives show that Sergeant William White was granted 360 acres of land on the Cumberland River for services in the Continental Army. Other records and letters refer to William White as Major White, but there is no indication that this "promotion" was anything other than an honorary one bestowed by his neighbors and friends.

A recognized leader of men, a shrewd businessman, and an accomplished craftsman, William White made major contributions to the Jackson County area around Fort Blount. His son, Robert White, continued in his father's example, and the area called White's Bend flourished economically. The fertile riverbottom land was much sought after, and many of the early families still have descendants living in the area today.

The construction of the Cordell Hull Dam created the Cordell Hull Reservoir which covered much of the farmland in White's Bend. The area today offers fishing and other water recreation as well as good farming and beautiful homesites.

Whitleyville

A land grant dated 1826 is the earliest known record of the present site of Whitleyville. The grant was awarded to Tandy Witcher for the sum of one cent per acre. This grant began on the northern boundary line of land belonging to Isacc Whitley for whom Whitleyville was probably named. Chancery Court records show David Myers living on the Big Springs tract as early as 1820.

The first road recorded is found in a deed dated 1829 which called for the "Great

Road” from Centerville to Gainesboro. An act passed March 3, 1854 to incorporate the Jennings and Line Creek Turnpike Company initiated the building of a turnpike from Gainesboro by Big Springs and Centerville to the Kentucky state line. Whitleyville soon became a thriving business center. The Big Springs afforded water power for a grist mill; also found there were a post office, a drugstore, a bank, blacksmith shops, churches and schools. The general merchandise establishments met almost every need of the people. The creek bed made a passable highway leading to the trading center.

Early business establishments of Old Whitleyville were those of Biles Brothers, Roger and McGlasson, A. M. Hall, then Whitleyville Mercantile Company, and Kitrell and Draper.

The record of the baptism of Belle Birdwell dated 1880 indicates that the Whitleyville Church of Christ was founded before that date. Early leaders of the church were G. W. Birdwell, Bedford Birdwell, Henry Rehom, Asberry Draper, and John Draper.

In 1840, a Presbyterian Church was organized at the Big Springs; this church was later known as the Arbor Church. T. C. Quarles preached his first sermon there on the second Sunday in June, 1847. The church house was washed away in May, 1865; land on Riley Creek was purchased from Lewis Hix, and the church was relocated there. T. C. Quarles was listed as pastor with Alexander Keith, James McCue, and Logan S. Watson as the elders.

In 1923 a new road was built away from the creek, and Whitleyville was moved to a new location across a field toward the new road. Business was carried on as usual as the buildings were being moved from one location to the other.

In 1948 Pine Lick, Willow Grove, South Fork and Arbor schools were consolidated into the Whitleyville School which was housed in a new building at the mouth of Pine Lick Creek. A decrease in the population coupled with the availability of better transportation resulted in the Whitleyville school being closed in 1970 and the children being transported to the county school in Gainesboro.

In 1950, the Nashville Tennessean awarded Whitleyville the honor of being named the number one community of Jackson County. This award was based on the community’s accomplishment, cooperation, and general appearance. Whitleyville was also ranked high among all the communities of the state. Whitleyville continues to be a garden spot of the Upper Cumberland area.

Williamsburg

On September 11, 1806, a Board of Commissioners was empowered to buy sixty acres of land for the purpose of building a county seat for Jackson County. The county seat was to be named Williamsburg in honor of Sampson Williams, an early pioneer and influential citizen of the region. The land selected was near Fort Blount, and a brick courthouse was built to accommodate a population whose estimates vary from two hundred to five hundred. The courthouse and jail were built by William White who also ran the first hotel in the town. Leighton F. Myers described the punishment meted out in the town thusly: "...the first man whipped on the post was by the name of Milens, forty stripes save one by the Sheriff Captain James Cook or by Sheriff James Young."

Williamsburg was the site of the school attended by members of the Turney family, one of whom became Governor of Tennessee. It was where Andrew Jackson, Sampson Williams, and others planned the political strategy which brought about the election of certain presidents of the United States. Williamsburg was the seat of the military district, and it was the mustering and assembling place for soldiers who served with Andrew Jackson at New Orleans.

In 1817, a more centrally located county seat was selected at Gainesboro. Sampson Williams purchased the Williamsburg property from the county, and he and his wife Margaret made their home in the courthouse. The property was inherited by his daughter Margaret who had married first her cousin Daniel Williams. At his death, Margaret married Andrew McClellan. The Williamsburg property served as a home to many generations of Jackson County families, and the old jail served as a chicken house in later years. Williamsburg and Fort Blount are placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and after many years of benevolent neglect, these sites have aroused local interest in a restoration project.

Jackson County Family History Book

The Jackson County Family History Book is the result of several years of hard work by past and present members of the Jackson County Historical Society. The Society approved a committee to begin the work in 1988. The members of that committee were: Steve Neer, Chair; Ward Draper, Co Chair; Katherine Anderson; Jewell Fox; Minnie Ada Holleman; Rita Jenkins; Kathy Neer; Angelia Smith; and Ronny West. Unfortunately the Society was unable to complete this project.

The family histories were retained in the Jackson County Library until 1994 when another committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of publication for Tennessee's Bicentennial in 1996. The committee members were: Patricia Fuqua Walker, Chair; Katherine Baugh Anderson; Ward Draper; Moldon Jenkins Tayse;

and Ruth Warren. A special note of appreciation goes to both committees.

In March 1995, the Society was able to obtain a grant from Tennessee 200, Inc. to assist in the production and publication of the Family History Book. Therefore, we now present the approximately 500 family histories and community stories for your reading enjoyment.

The Jackson County Historical Society does not assume responsibility for the authenticity of the family histories. The original stories were reviewed, updated, and in some cases rewritten by the authors. They were also edited for obvious grammatical errors, misspelled words, and (for some stories) brevity. If an error is found, please correct it in your book for your family.

In honor of Tennessee's Bicentennial, the Jackson County Historical Society is very pleased to preserve an important part of the history of Jackson County for future generations. We hope you enjoy learning about Jackson County's families

George G. Dudney, President, Jackson County
Historical Society.

Source: Jackson County, Tennessee WPA (Works Project Administration)
Records: by James L. Douthat, Mountain Press, Signal Mountain, TN: pg. 4

Roaring River is said to have been named by Daniel Boone, the hardy pioneer of Kentucky.

He and a party of his comrades encamped for a few days near its falls since called Waterloo. The stream was much swollen at the time and on account of the deafening (sic) roar of the rapids and the cataract, he gave the stream the euphonious name it has since always borne.

Source: Jackson County, Tennessee WPA (Works Project Administration)
Records: by James L. Douthat, Mountain Press, Signal Mountain, TN: pgs. 6 & 7.

A name that should be preserved in the history of **Col. Sampson Williams**. He was one of the first, if not the first, permanent settlers in the present limits of Jackson County. He was also one of the strongest characters in the early history of Middle Tennessee, and the history of his life should be of interest to every one (sic). My investigation develops that Col. Williams first appears in Tennessee history as a settler on the present site of Nashville, Tennessee in the year 1780.

It will be remembered that this was the year that the first permanent settlement was made in Middle Tennessee and that settlers at Nashville, then known as

French Lick, were subjected to the most terrible hardships, and that a great number of them were killed by the Indians.

His company of 70 men invaded the Indian country on the Duck River; findind (sic) that he was unable to make sufficient speed after the Indians with that large a command, he picked out twenty men from the seventy and made this small company. Among this twenty was Andrew Jackson who at that time resided at Nashville. He served as a Private in this expedition under Col. Williams.

Next we hear of Col. Williams as one of the commanders in the Nickajack expedition against the Indians in 1794. Co. Williams at that time evidently had located at Fort Blount. The depredations of the Indians had gotten so bad that it was necessary to make a united attack upon them. Col. Williams made a trip to south Kentucky and succeeded in persuading Col. Whitley to bring his command and join in the expedition. Students of Tennessee History are familiar with this expedition which resulted in the destruction of a number of Indian towns and in driving the Indians from a good part of the Tennessee Territory. **George Flynn, for whom it is believed Flynn's Creek is named, distinguished (sic) himself in this expedition by swimming the Tennessee River and scouting the Indian towns ahead of the expeditions.**

The next historical record of **Col. Williams** is his selection as Senatory to represent Sumner County in the State Legislature. This was in the year 1799. Sumner County at that time included Jackson County and Col. Williams was then residing at Fort Blount. **The county seat of Jackson County "Williamsbug".** Was named for this pioneer; also the county was organized at the home of Col. Williams. Jackson County would do itself honor by marking the grave of this old hero and his home...which grave is in the old Williamsburg Cemetery on the north side of Cumberland River, across from Fort Blount.

His name should be as familiar to each school child in Jackson County as that of George Washington.

Information acquired from Mr. L. F. Myers son of Captain Calvin Myers who was raised in the Fort Blount vicinity (now resides near Livingston, Overton Co., on Cookeville Route 7), that the first courthouse for Jackson Count was built at Williamsburg by William White in the year 1814, the building was of brick and that the builder, Mr. White, also kept a hotel at that location.

Mr. Myers says that according to traditions **Jennings Creek was named for John or Jonothan Jennings** and that John Jennings was one of the first settlers of the county, being located first at Fort Blount as an aid or hunter for the garrison under the command of Col. Williams

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