

BLAKE BAKER THACKSTON JR.

(1840-1896)

By Edward L. Thackston

History of Smith County Tennessee -1986

Smith County Homecoming '86 Heritage Committee

F745, pgs. 719-720.

Blake B. Thackston, Jr., was a successful farmer and millwright of Sullivan's Bend, near Maggart. He was the **son of Blake B. and Sally Pate Thackston**, both of whom were raised in Jackson Co., but moved to Smith Co., about 1830.

At the age of 21, he joined the Confederate Army, and was mustered into Co. B, 7th Tennessee Infantry, at Camp Trousdale. **His brother, Benjamin**, was in the same company. The 7th fought in the West Virginia mountain campaign in the winter of '61-62, then at Seven Pines and the seven days' battles before Richmond, after which Blake was promoted to sergeant.

At the battle of Cedar Run, Blake was firing from behind a rotten stump. As he raised up to withdraw his ramrod to tamp another round into his musket, a minie ball struck him in the chest. Because it had been slowed by its passage through the stump, it did not penetrate, but lodged in his breastbone. He recovered quickly, but the ball was never removed. After a short furlough home, during which he brought his family a pair of field glasses given to him in return for his kindness by a Union officer he had captured, he rejoined his unit.

In December, 1862, the 7th was on the right flank of Lee's army at Fredricksburg. A charge by Union troops under **Gen. George Meade** broke the Confederate line, and the 19th Georgia, the 14th Tennessee, and most of the 7th Tennessee gave way, leaving the remainder of the 7th with an exposed left flank. However, in spite of the Union forces in their front, on their flank, and in their rear, the 1st Tennessee, and Co. Band a few other companies of the 7th, under the leadership of **Lt. Francis Timberlake**, held their ground, then charged the enemy in their front and drove them back. As a result of his steadfastness, Blake was hit from the flank by a shot which cut a deep and permanent gash through his calf muscle, which ended his active service. After months of hospitalization, he was detailed as a hospital guard and carpenter until the end of the war.

Blake and his friend, **W. C. Boze**, who were delivering horses to the army when Lee surrendered, went to Winchester, hoping for paroles and free transportation home. They were paroled, but denied free transportation unless they took the oath of allegiance. They refused. They walked all the way to Smith Co., arriving in August, after boarding with a farmer in Pulaski Co., Virginia, until sentiment in East Tennessee cooled down enough to allow safe passage.

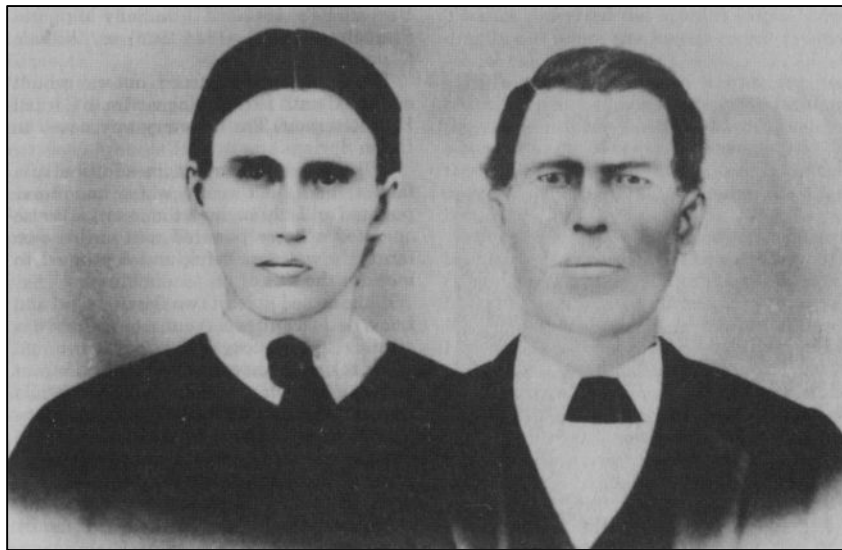
After returning to his father's farm, Blake quickly became a successful farmer and millwright also. He was asked to come to the farm of **Snoden Maddux** in Buffalo Valley, to rebuild his mill. Maddux had a daughter, **Mary**, whose suitor, **Bob Scruggs**,

was a friend of Blake. Scruggs gave Blake a box of apples to take to Mary. However, during the months which Blake spent at the Maddux house working on the mill, **Mary** turned her attention to Blake. They were married October 22, 1868.

The newlyweds made their home with her father for two years. A boy, named **Anthony** for Blake's older brother who was killed in the war, was born and died. He was buried in the Maddux cemetery. They then moved to Sullivan's Bend to live with Blake's parents, where another boy was born. He also died after 3 years. Their next children lived to adulthood, however, before the last died young. They were: **Lee Hampton** (1875-1963); m. **Annie Lizzie Cardwell**; **Snoden Maddux** (1878-1964) m. **Alice Medora Rogers**; **Lucy Alma** (1880-1921) m. **Willie McDonald**; **Sallie Pate** (1881-1957); **Virginia Cleveland "Virgie"** (1884-1967); Henry Benjamin (1887-1943) m. **Lydia Duke**; **Mary Lillian** (1894-1894).

Blake was killed November 21, 1896, when he accidentally fell through a window of the Masonic Lodge in Snow Creek. He had arrived late, took a straight chair, and went to the back, where he leaned back against what he thought was a curtain-covered wall. However, it was an open window. He fell 20 feet to the ground and died about midnight of internal bleeding. He was buried the next day in the family cemetery, with Masonic honors. **His wife, Mary**, died two years later.

His friend, **W. C. Boze**, writing in the January, 1897 *Confederate Veteran*, said "He was a noble man, of sterling qualities, and of rare mental abilities...I never knew a more courageous, loyal and honorable man, one who was never swayed by public sentiment, but always dared to follow the dictates of his heart."



Pictured: Blake Baker Thackston, Jr. 3/20/1840 – 11/21/1896 & his wife Mary Marshall (Maddux) Thackston 11/4/1848 – 7/28/1898, married 10/22/1868, both buried in the Thackson Cemetery, 11th Civil Dist., Smith Co., TN

Picture made ca. 1870.

Mary Marshall (Maddux) Thackston, d/o Snowden Horton Maddux 12/9/1812 – 4/16/1875 & Lucy Ann Leftwich 1810 – 12/7/1886, both buried in the Maddux Cemetery, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN. Snowden Horton Maddux, s/o Craven Maddux (1782-1850) & Elizabeth Davis. Lucy Ann Leftwich, d/o William Thomas Leftwich Sr. (1790-1845) & Martha Bates.

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F746, pg. 720

Blake B. Thackston, Sr., was the first Thackston to settle permanently in Smith Co. His father, **Zadock B. Thackston**, a noted Methodist minister born in Prince Edward Co., Virginia, was in Smith Co. in 1802. He then settled on Martin's Creek in southern Jackson Co.

Blake was born December 22, 1799, probably in Sumner Co., where Zadock is believed to have lived between 1790 and 1802. **His mother was Susana Paylor**. He grew up on the farm on Martin's Creek, helping his mother, with his **older brother, Paul**, and **younger sister, Mary**, while his father was away from home for months at a time, "riding the circuits."

In early 1822, Zadock moved to Scottsville, Kentucky, where he lived until he died in 1852. Paul followed later that year. Mary married **David Apple**, and Blake moved to Smith County.

On November 28, 1828, **Blake married Sarah "Sally" Pate**, from Flynn's Lick, in Jackson Co. She was 22 and he was nearly 29, both relatively old for that day. In 1830, Blake purchased 50 acres in Sullivan's Bend, "where he now lives," from **Michael Shoemake**. In 1843, he bought 43 more acres from Anna Sullivan. Blake had seen the rich bottom land, small spring-fed creek, and nearby hilltop earlier, while traveling from Granville to Nashville by steamboat, thought it was the prettiest site for a house he had ever seen, and resolved to return and live there someday.

Blake and Sally had 8 children, all of whom they raised to adulthood. They also raised several grandchildren after one or both parents died. The children were: **Amanda Frances** (1829-) m. **Temple Birdwell**; **Anthony Pate** (1830-1862) m. (1) **Elizabeth Dillard**, (2) **Elizabeth Duke**; **Susan P.** (1833-) m. (1) Green Duke, (2) Felix Dickens; **Elvira "Babe"** (1835-1920) m. (1) **Octavus Graves**, (2) James Pulley; Henry (1837-1901) m. **Pate**; **Blake Baker, Jr.**, (1840-1896) m. **Mary Marshall Maddux**; **Benjamin F.** (1842-1884) m. **Sally Margaret Franklin**; **Mary** (1844-1926) m. **William Conditt**.

The original house burned, but was rebuilt and stood until 1973, falling victim to Cordell Hull Reservoir. The cemetery was moved to Dixon Springs.

Blake was a millwright, in addition to a farmer, and built many water and horse powered mills throughout the county. He also operated a horse powered mill on his own farm. He was successful, and continued to increase the size of his landholdings.

Blake owned at least two slaves, **David** and **Lucy**, both acquired as youngsters. Lucy was acquired in Kentucky in 1822, at age two, and rode back to Tennessee on the saddle

in front of Blake. She was raised almost as a family member and married **Sam Strother**, a slave from an adjoining farm. When the slaves were freed by the 13th Amendment after the war, Blake gave them a house and 5 acres. Her birth is recorded in the family Bible, as was David's, and she was buried in the family cemetery.

The War Between the States brought tragedy to the Thackstons, as it did to so many families. All three remaining boys (Henry had moved to Texas in 1857) went off to fight for the Confederacy. Only two came back. Anthony, a lieutenant in the 28th Tennessee, was killed at Baton Rouge. Benjamin and Blake, Jr., who was wounded twice, were in the 7th Tennessee.

As an old man, Blake was rough and gruff looking, and most of the neighborhood children were afraid of him. However, he was really soft inside, and loved children.

At age 82, Blake fell while walking in the yard, and broke his hip. The doctor was sent for, but Blake refused to let him attempt to reset the hip. His nephew, **Jack Apple**, urged him, obviously now dying, to make his peace with God. Blake replied, "By God, I didn't know we ever had any falling out." Apparently they hadn't, for Blake died peacefully soon after. Two of his most precious possessions survive – his family Bible and the cradle he made with his own hands, and in which were rocked his 8 children and most of his 26 grandchildren.



Blake Baker Thackston, Sr. 12/22/1799 – 11/17/1881 and wife Sally (Pate) Thackston 3/27/1806 – 11/20/1874.

Picture made ca. 1848.

*See Virtual Cemetery, Maddux Cemetery, History Putnam County, TN and other related files at:
<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Lois V. (McDonald) Bond Obt.

BOND, Lois V. – Age 88, passed away August 17, 2004. She was the daughter of the late Willie Ellis and Lucy Alma Thackston McDonald. She was a homemaker and a member of First United Methodist Church, Lebanon. She is preceded in death by her husband, James V. “J.V.” Bond, a partner of the former Lebanon Drug Company; several sisters and a brother. Survived by son, Jimmy (Janice) of Goodlettsville, TN; grandson, Andy (Tracey) Bond of Mt. Juliet, TN, Tim Bond of Nashville, TN; several nieces and nephews; several great nieces and nephews. Graveside services will be conducted 11 a.m. Friday, August 20, 2004 at Cedar Grove Cemetery, with Rev. Billy Craighead officiating. Flowers accepted, or memorials may be made to Shriner’s Hospitals for Children, c/o Al Menah Shrine Center, P. O. Box 78545, Nashville, TN 37207. Visitation with the family will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, at Bond Memorial Chapel, North Mt. Juliet Road and Weston Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN (615) 773-2663; 24-Hour Obituary Line, (615) 641-2663.

Mary Maddux (McDonald) Dickens Obt.

On the morning of October 24, 1922 about 4 o’clock the death angel made a sad visit to the home of Reginald Dickens and bore the spirit of his loving companion back to God who gave it. Mary was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie McDonald both of whom preceded her to the grave some time ago. She was married to Reginald Dickens about 18 months ago and to this union one son was born. Mary was about 21 years of age and was an intelligent young woman, just in the bloom of youth. Mary leaves a husband, one son, 5 sisters and 1 brother.

Carthage Courier, Smith Co., TN: 23 November 1922, by Leone Proffitt.

Willie Ellis McDonald Obt.

Willie McDonald of the Maggart neighborhood was found dead in the field last Thursday. Being a subject of apoplexy, it is thought that Mr. McDonald succumbed to an attack of this disease. The remains were laid to rest in the Snowden Thackston graveyard the following Friday. He leaves a wife and several children to mourn their loss.

Cartage Courier, Smith Co., TN: 18 April 1918, front page.

Annie Lizzie (Cardwell) Thackston Obt.

Mrs. Thackston Dies in Nursing Home. Mrs. Annie Lizzie Cardwell Thackston, 90, a native of Smith County, died in a Lebanon nursing home Friday afternoon. Funeral services were conducted at Lebanon Saturday by the Rev. Elma Broyles. Burial was in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Her husband was the late Lee Thackston. She had lived in Lebanon several years.

Survivors are 2 daughters, Mrs. E. A. Kerr, Donelson; Mrs. D. W. Stone, Beebe, AR; 2 sons, Blake Thackston, Bradenton, FL; Guy Thackston, Lebanon, TN; 8 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren.

Carthage Courier, TN: Thursday, 31 October 1968.

Blake "Bill" Chapman Thackston Obt.

THACKSTON, Blake “Bill” Chapman, Age 81, of 322 Tyne Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN. Died Saturday, February 20, 1999 at National Health Care Center. He was a native of Smith County. Survived by his wife, Marguerite Odil Thackston; daughters, Elizabeth (Gerry) McComas and Lou (William) Edwards, Nashville; step-grandchildren, Clay McComas and Laura McComas. Mr. Thackston was a graduate of MTSU, served in the Army Air Corps in WWII, a member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church where he served as Vestryman, Lay Reader, and Chalice Bearer, a member of the Murfreesboro Downtown Kiwanis Club,

SAR, and life member of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. He was retired from the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Mr. Thackston donated his body to Vanderbilt Hospital.

Memorial service will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, February 28, 1999, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Father Gene Wise officiating. Visitation with the family will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, February 27, 1999, at his home, 322 Tyne Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN, and from 3-5 p.m. Sunday in Ferguson Hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church following his memorial service. Honorary pallbearers will be the Vestry, Chalice Bearers, and Lay Readers of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and members of the Murfreesboro Downtown Kiwanis Club. Memorials in memory of Mr. Thackston may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 315 E. Main St., Murfreesboro, TN 37130. Woodfin Memorial Chapel, 893-5151.

Fred J. Thackston Obt.

Wednesday evening funeral services were conducted at 8:00 p.m. from the Carthage Chapel of Sanderson Funeral Home for Fred J. Thackston of E. Tn. Ave. in Oak Ridge. Graveside services and burial were conducted Thursday morning at 10:00 in the Dixon Springs Cemetery. Bro. Ed Spiva officiated at both services.

Mr. Thackston died Tuesday morning June 29, 1993 at 7:49 a.m. in the Alvin C. York Hospital in Murfreesboro at the age of 63 following an extended illness.

Born in the Sullivan's Bend Community of Smith County, the son of the late Henry Benjamin and Lydia Duke Thackston, he was a Korean War veteran in the US Army. He was a Methodist in belief and a retired truck driver.

Surviving are 2 sisters, Lucille Thackston of Oak Ridge, Helen Lynch of Gordonsville; a brother Harry Thackston of Knoxville. Sanderson Funeral Home, Directors.

Carthage Courier, Smith Co., TN: 8 July 1993.

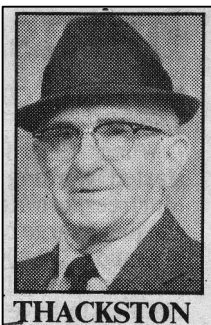
Lucille R. Thackston Obt.

Lucille R. Thackston, 69, 185 Raleigh Road, Oak Ridge, Tenn., an accounting clerk, died yesterday, Methodist Hospital. Services 8 p.m. today. Sanderson Funeral Home, Carthage, Tenn. Survivors: sister, Helen Lynch, Gordonsville, Tenn.; brother, Harry Thackston, Knoxville.

7 July 1994, TN

Guy Carleton Thackston Sr. Obt.

LEBANON, TN – Guy Carleton Thackston Sr., 85, a former member of the Tennessee House of Representatives and a former president of the Tennessee Jaycees, died from heart failure at his home yesterday.



Mr. Thackston was born in Wilson County where he lived most of his life. His parents were Lee Hampton and Lizzie Cardwell Thackston.

He served one term in the General Assembly from 1953-54. Immediately following World War II, he was active in civic club work when he was president of the Tennessee Junior Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Rotary Club, and Lebanon Masonic Lodge, the Royal Arch Masons and the Knights Templar.

Mr. Thackston was a member of the United Methodist Church and a graduate of Cumberland University, where he earned both the bachelor of arts and bachelor of laws degrees. After college, he taught school at Castle Heights Military High School.

Subsequently, he worked for the Tennessee Department of Employment Security. During World War II, he was office manager of the War Production Board in Nashville.

Later, Mr. Thackston farmed and developed a residential subdivision on the Sparta Pike.

Services will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at Lebanon First United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery.

Nave Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia Adams Thackston; daughter Gemma Thackston Roberts, West Palm Beach, FL; sons Dr. Edward Thackston, Nashville, and the rev. Carleton Thackston, Smithville, TN; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

3 February 1993, TN

Henry Benjamin Thackston Obt.

Funeral services for Henry B. Thackston, 55, who died unexpectedly at his home near Elmwood last Wednesday, were conducted at the home on Thursday by the Rev. Phocian Gibbs and the Rev. R. D. Angel. Burial was in the family cemetery.

A native of Smith Co., Mr. Thackston was a member of a prominent family of this section. He was a farmer.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lydia Duke Thackston; 3 daughters, 2 sons, 2 sisters, and 2 brothers. Carthage Courier, TN: Thursday, 27 May 1943, front page.

Lydia Duke Thackston Obt.

THACKSTON, Mrs. Lydia Duke – Age 80, of Oak Ridge, formerly of Sullivan's Bend Community, passed away Tuesday May 8, 1973 at Oak Ridge Methodist Hospital. Survived by 3 daughters, Mrs. Helen Lynch of Gordonsville, Mrs. Elizabeth Sloan, Marcus, Texas, Miss Lucille Thackston, Oak Ridge, Fred Thackston, Oak Ridge, Harry Thackston, Fountain City, TN; 6 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren. The remains are at the Chapel of Sanderson Funeral Home where services will be conducted Thursday morning at 11:00. Rev. Phocian Gibbs will officiate. Active pallbearers: Ben Lynch, David Sloan, Xin Sloan, Jr., Xin Sloan, III, Ben Thackston, John Gannaway, Lloyd Duke, Charles Duke, Steve Adamski. Interment in the Dixon Springs Cemetery. Sanderson Funeral Directors of Carthage, Directors.

Tennessean, TN: Thursday, 10 May 1973.

Sidney Virginia (Adams) Thackston Obt.

THACKSTON, Sidney Virginia Adams – Age 83. Saturday, April 16, 1994. Survived by three children, Dr. Edward L. Thackston, Nashville, Gemma T. Roberts, West Palm Beach, FL, and Rev. Guy Carleton Thackston Jr., Smithville, TN. Remains are at Nave Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 3:30 p.m., Monday, April 18th at the 1st United Methodist Church conducted by Bishop Robert Spain and Rev. Gerald Noffsinger. Burial will be in Cedar Grove Cemetery, Lebanon. Family requests visitation 2 p.m., Monday until 3:30 p.m. at the 1st United Methodist Church. Family request memorial contributions may be made to the 1st United Methodist Church, Lebanon, TN or Cumberland University or the Lebanon Wilson County Library. Nave Funeral Home, Lebanon, TN.

Library lover lives on through her support: By Warren Duzak, Staff Writer, Lebanon, TN: LEBANON - Sydney Virginia Adams Thackston will be remembered at the Lebanon Public Library.

“She was always coming in, and she always had a smile on her face,” said Librarian Mary Williams.

Thackston, an avid reader and dedicated supporter of the library, was buried yesterday. She was 84.

Both Thackston and her husband Guy C. Thackston, who died last year, found time and money to improve the county’s library system, Williams said. The pair often donated a book to the library in memory of a friend or relative.

“They were constantly supporting the library financially,” Williams said.

Thackston, born in 1910, was always around books, reading, and words. Her father, Edward E. Adams, was the founder, publisher and editor of *The Lebanon Democrat*. Her mother, Gemma Gause Adams, was the society and literary editor of her husband’s paper.

Thackston attended then Cumberland College and graduated after majoring in French. She taught French, Spanish, German and English at Lebanon High School from 1961 to 1975. Thackston also taught French at Cumberland.

Thackston’s friends are expected to carry on her tradition. Williams said she expects the library to receive books as a memorial to one of its best friends.

Snoden Maddux Thackston Obt.

LEBANON, TN – Snowden Maddux Thackston, 86. Survived by 1 daughter, Mrs. Carl Fry, others, Mrs. Clyde Page, Trenton, TN, Mrs. R. K. Bell, Chevy Chase, MD, Mrs. R. K. Murphy, Morristown, Mrs. Harry Vickers, Birmingham, AL, son, Glen Thackston, Elmwood; sister, Miss Virgie Thackston, Carthage, TN. Interment: Wilson County Memorial Gardens, TN. Ligon-Bobo Funeral Home.

Nashville, TN: Tuesday, 20 October 1964.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>