

A Memorial To Moldon Jenkins Tayse  
by David Tayse  
Jackson County Tennessee 1801 – 2001  
Bicentennial Pictorial History  
pg. 220



Moldon Jerkins Tayse, (pictured left) retired U.S. postal worker, was interested in all things happening around her, especially anything pertaining to the history of Jackson County and its people. From the time she was a small child she pestered her mother, aunt, and any other relative about her ancestors and “kinfolk.”

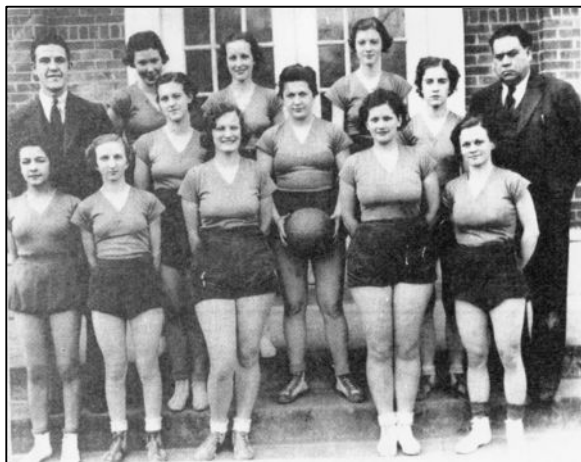
The daughter of Ellis “Mack” and Lera Hix Jenkins, she was born March 15, 1916, and died October 4, 1998.

She was the Jackson County Historian from the late 1970’s until her death. She was a member of the Willow Grove Church of Christ until the building was destroyed by a tornado, after which she was a member of the Whitleyville Church of Christ, a charter member of the Upper Cumberland Genealogical Association and the Jennings Creek Community and Volunteer Fire Department.

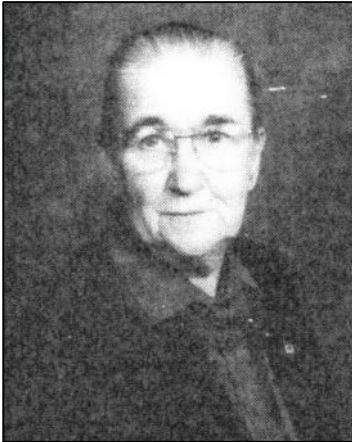
Moldon married Claude K. Tayse and they were the parents of two children. Mary Tom, who died in infancy, and David who is the owner of Tayse Furniture in Gainesboro. Her grandmother, Audrey Tayse Haynes, served as chief of staff for Tipper Gore, wife of the vice president of the United States.

Her friends were world wide and from all walks of life. It seemed she corresponded with people from everywhere. She had accumulated a world of information in her 82 years of living. They came from as far away as California and as near as the next county to learn of their roots from her vast store of family histories.

Her memory will live on with the many people who she has helped to learn family research, especially the people of Jackson County, Tennessee.



Gainesboro Girls Basketball Team – 1935  
Left Front: Stella Brown Jenkins, Moline Cassetty Rushing, Grace Poston Burnette, Vivian Poston Thorton, Katherine Meadows Cassetty. Second Row: John W. Brown Coach, Edna Ruth Smith Byrne, Ruth Keith Washburn, Moldon Jenkins Tayse, C.W. Davis, Manager. Back Row: Ruby Kinnard Moore, Margaret Draper Naff, Ida Mai Quarles McCawley.  
Picture: Jackson County Tennessee by Moldon Jenkins Tayse 1989.



Jackson County Tennessee by Moldon Jenkins Tayse 1989.

Molden Jenkins Tayse was born March 15, 1916, in the Whitleyville community of Jackson County, TN where she received her formal education. She was employed the United States Postal Service until she retired January 3, 1986, from the Gainesboro Post Office. Prior to her postal career she was employed in the Jackson County school system. She was written historical columns for the local newspaper of the county.

Mrs. Tayse, the daughter of the late Mack and Lera Hix Jenkins, was the wife of the late Claude Tayse, who was a businessman in the Whitleyville Community and a magistrate of the Jackson County Quarterly Court. Mrs. Tayse has one son Joe David Tayse and one granddaughter Audrey Tayse.

Mrs. Tayse was appointed Jackson County Historian by the County Court in 1976. She is an active member of the Jackson County Historical Society, a charter member of the Upper Cumberland Genealogy Association, and has served as vice-president of the association.

Mrs. Tayse is a member of the Willow Grove Church of Christ.

*I have seen this woman's name on several family related history notes and must include her as a reliable genealogist of Jackson County, TN and surrounding areas. A. Lambert.*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

JACKSON COUNTY TENNESSEE by Moldon Jenkins Tayse, 1989

Typing: Rita Jenkins and Audrey Tayse.

Pg. 26: PETITION:

Petition For Reduction of Constitutional Limits of Jackson County, Tennessee.

The Prayer of your humble petitioners showeth that they labor under many inconveniences by not having their County (to wit Jackson) reduced to its constitutional limits and seat of Justice permanently fixed. Relying on your clemency we hope your Honorable body will pass a law to that affect and fix our seat of Justice at Fort Blount.

And your Petitioners in duty bound will ever pray on Jackson County, 8<sup>th</sup> July 1806.

Hillera Pate, Silas Roberts, James Draper, Thomas Draper, Al Hair, Coman Hardy, Moses Ashbrook, Sr., James Ashbrook, (pg. 27) Moses Ashbrook Jr., Louis Thomas, Thomas Billingsly, Josiah Smith, Christopher Booler, Booker Pate, James Breeden,

Enoch Hollinsworth, William Birdwell, Nathaniel Ridley, Patrick Fitzgerald, Jaboz Fitzgerald, Elijah Simmons, Richard Anderson, Caleb Anderson, Uriah Anderson.

Andrew Ingram, Charles Anderson, Michael Osborne, John Sloan, Mark Sloan, Adam Teel, Jr., William Teel, Joseph Davis, Ephram Davis, Amos Davis, John Roberts, Allen Holliday, Luke Handy, Matthew Brooks, Robert Stewart, William Holleman, Henry Saddler, John Bush, Jeremiah Bush, William McDonald, John Calhoun, Grover Whittemore, James Sadler, Cornelius Stewart.

William Patten, James Carter, Benjamin Holiday, Hugh Stewart, Owen Frankling, Lewis Frankling, William Calhoun, John Sadler, Pleasant Kearby, James Holleman, Woodson White, John Brooks, Matthew Brooks, Robert Brooks, Thomas Dill, David McLechy, Benjamin Boman, William Parker, John Ruffin, William Hilliman, Sr., Thomas Holliman, John Williamson, Michel Williamson, David Kase, Charles Holms, Jonothon Richason, John Richason, James Templen, William Fuguee, James Elrod, Jiles Elrod, William Elrod, William Sadler, George Looper, John Sadler, Jr., John Edwards, Joseph Williamson, John Williamson, Charles Carter, Henry Burton, Jacob Young, Robert S. Salliant.

Cornelius Cokron, Matthew Cowen, Robert McKinley, Andrew Ferrell, John Roard, Owen Roark, Bennett Roark, Thomas Nichols, William Brown, Jame Termin, Bright Termin, William Ferrell, William Brown, Sr., Robert Hardcastle, John Martin, Andrew (pg. 28) Hogin, John Clark, Richard Woods, Samuel Stalcup, Stephen Henry, John Frazier, Richard Clark, Joseph Sand (Land), Isaac Sand (Land), Shadrack Bridges, Henry Mohannon, John Young, Henry Dillard, William Dillard, Jorge Masterson, Richard Runnels, Robert Ward, Thomas Calhoun, John Calhoun, William Cowen, William Smith, Beman Graves, Elijah Parrott, James Parrott, Archibald Skaggs, Sherrod Parrott, Esom Graves, John Steel, Jr., John Evans, John Graves.

Benjamin Turner, John Turner, Abraham Davis, George Teel, Samuel Hannah, Hamilton Johnson, David McDonald, James Armstrong, James Ray, Jr., Abednigo Skaggs, Fredick Skaggs, Dennis Wiley, Joseph Ward, John Allison, James Ray, Sr., Joseph Ray, Rubin Graves, James McCall Sr., Jacob Jenkins, Adam Teal, John Smith, James McCall, Jr., William McCall, Isaac Wilby, Cad Davis, Joseph Price, Abner Chaffin, Robert Price, Ben Haywood, George Francisco, John Maken, William Tomson, Ben Forde, John Steele, Sr., James Snodgrass, Hi McKinney, John Black, Bailey Butler, John Hewell, Edmon Bruer, James Robert, Thomas Cribbins, Jr., Thomas Cribbins, Sr., Sab Pate, William Sweat, Henry Lancaster, Henry Jones, Thomas Cassetty, Morgan Williams, John Osburn.

House of Rep. August 6, 1806

Read referred to the committee of Propositions and Grievances and sent to the Senate.

Pg. 29: Jackson County Reduced to Constitutional Size:

September 1806, an Act was passed to reduce Jackson County to Constitutional Limits (625 square miles) and to establish a new county seat to be as near the center of the county as possible.

By said Act, the county was bounded as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Smith County on the northern edge of the state, running east with the state line to Cumberland River and the south bank, being the northeast of the military reservation; thence south twenty-three degrees east so far as is necessary to have six hundred twenty five square miles; thence west to the eastern boundary of Smith County and with said boundary to the beginning.

In the same Act, Overton County was set up on the east. Jackson before reduction, included all of what is now Overton County, east of where the Cumberland River enters the state, most of what is now Clay County, nearly all of Putnam County, and a portion of DeKalb county, the western boundary being where it is now.

Pg. 56: War of 1812:

The dispute between the United States and Great Britain, which chiefly brought illegal attacks upon American vessels on the high seas. The impressments of American seaman and many other related matters was increasing in intensity.

British claims to American territory persisted and were a constant threat to the United States, in spite of the treaty which followed the Revolutionary War.

On September 7, 1812, at the call of Governor Blount, the legislature of Tennessee assembled in Nashville. This was the first time a legislative session had been held outside of East Tennessee. The governor expressed his gratification at the full attendance of the legislators and launched at once into the serious business which had caused him to call the special session.

The governor referred, of course, to the Declaration of War, on June 18, 1812, by the United States government against Great Britain and Ireland.

Many brave volunteers stepped forward and enlisted under the banners of their country, resolved to protect their own and their country's rights or nobly die in the glorious struggle.

No time was lost in readying the Tennessee Volunteers of their departure for the lower South. Governor Blount's orders to Jackson were brief and he left to the volunteers the responsibility for arming and clothing themselves.

The looms and the sewing and knitting needles of the southern women were kept busy in the short time which elapsed between the Governor's orders and the final departure of the men.

A company was formed in Jackson County and met at the mouth of Roaring River and Fort Blount at Williamsburg on November 13, 1814. The company arrived in Nashville, Tennessee on November 21, 1814. They mustered November 23, and left for New Orleans, Louisiana, the following day.

Soon after the Jackson County company departed, twenty-three hundred Kentuckians set sail on December 8, 1814, from the mouth of the Cumberland River to join others at New Orleans.

The backwoods riflemen, in their picturesque hunting shirts, were looked upon at first with curiosity and then with genuine appreciation. They were not awed by the fashionable dress and stilted manners of the city folds, even though, their mission was to help defend them from the British.

Meanwhile, Jackson was getting everything in his encampment ready for action. On the morning of January 8, when the enemy began to advance, he was ready to receive them. For one hour the fire of the small arms was incessant and severe. Yet, the columns of the enemy continued to advance. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded.

There have been many accounts of the losses of the contending armies, the most reliable of which is probably the Reid and Eaton History of Andrew Jackson. This source place the total British loss at two thousand six hundred; seven hundred killed, fourteen wounded and five hundred taken prisoners. The American loss was seven killed and six wounded.

Pg. 126: Memorable Personalities: Jackson County served as the hub for the western movement from the early dawn of the settlement of middle Tennessee. Many people on their way west stopped in Jackson County before traveling on to Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas or Texas. One such family was the family of "Mark Twain", John Clemens, father of Samuel L. Clemens, lived for a while in Jackson County. It has been thought that Samuel Clemens was born in Gainesboro.

Hon. George H. Morgan, addressed a note of inquiry to Mr. Clemens and received the following facetious reply. "According, the best information I can get, I suppose I saw light of day at Fayetteville, Missouri. It was before my recollection. I might as well been born in Fentress County or Gainesboro, Tennessee. My parents having resided there a short time before I became an American citizen. I had no choice in the matter, however, I know nothing about it, except from my family tradition." Mark Twain was not born in Gainesboro, but his brother Orien was in 1835. John Clemens resided in a house that stood on the south west corner of the public square, and kept the first hotel opened in Gainesboro. The Tavern, as public houses were called, was built of logs as were most of the houses erected during the establishment of Gainesboro.

Pg. 127: Hannaniah and Davis Lincoln, brothers to Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, lived in Jackson County in the early 1800's. About the year 1785 Hannaniah Lincoln, his wife and seven small children moved from Pennsylvania to Virginia. The section of Virginia in which he located was very soon to become the state of Kentucky. On June 1, 1792, Kentucky entered the union as the 15<sup>th</sup> state. His home was in what is known now as Tinsley's Bottom. At that time, the southern part of Cumberland County Kentucky had not been settled. This has since been cut off into Tennessee and located in Jackson County, which is now in the western part of Clay County.

After the death of his wife, Hannaniah lived with his two sons John and Moses I. on the Tinsley Bottom Farm until 1814, when he was killed by a band of Indians. Hannaniah was killed, John and Moses I., escaped. Hannaniah was buried beside his wife and two small children on his farm as late as 1859, these graves were known, and were publically acknowledged to be those of Hannaniah Lincoln, and wife and two small children. Immediately after their father's death John and Moses I. moved to Ohio. Davis Lincoln moved to Indiana. The Lincolns were found on the earliest petitions and tax list of Jackson County.

While leaving his office on an evening in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was met by friends of a confederate soldier then being held along with three others in a Maine prisoner (Pg. 128) of war camp, Fort Delaware. Lincoln re-entered his office long enough to pardon the prisoners. That night he was assassinated.

This is the story which is preserved in old newspaper accounts and in the family lore of the descendants of Thomas Jefferson Lee, one of the prisoners, pardoned by Lincoln. "Jeff" Lee's Grandson, Howard Lee still lives near the "Jeff" Lee farm on Martin's Creek, a few miles south of Granville, Tennessee.

H. Leo Boles, evangelist, scholar and educator was born in the Flynn's Lick Community of Jackson County. Over a period of forty years he conducted many meetings in this section. For sixteen years Brother Boles was president of David Lipscomb College. He was well known throughout the country as a author and editor, having written a number of widely used religious books and commentaries. He had been Editor-in-Chief of the Gospel Advocate Series of Bible Study literature and on the editorial staff of the Gospel Advocate.

One of our Nation's greatest statesmen, our own Cordell Hull, began his law practice in Gainesboro and later became well renowned for his ability in serving his country in the capacity of Secretary of State. He was the Father of the Good Neighbor Policy.

To the oldtime drummers, (traveling salesmen), making the Jackson County territory, Aunt Polly Ann Williams, (pg. 129) proprietress of an inn, was a familiar figure. For fifty years she operated a hotel in Gainesboro. Aunt Polly as she was affectionally called, "ruled the roost". When she rang the bell for lunch, court adjourned instantly. She was know for her good food and hospitality.

She was reared near the river in Jackson County. Her father operated a ferry boat across the Cumberland River. At the age of sixteen she was able to pull the ferry by cable across the river either in daylight or dark.

She was like a good Samaritan to the people of Gainesboro. When her neighbors were in trouble she was the first to appear. It has been said that she was the first at every birth in Gainesboro and the last to leave the grave when any of her fellow townspeople died.

The late Mrs. Clara Cox Epperson, widely known Tennessee poet spent her early life in Gainesboro, TN. She was a descendant of David Cox who gave the land which was used to lay off the town of Gainesboro, TN.

George Hampton Morgan, born in Jackson County September 5, 1841, was the son of Daniel M. and Susannah (Smith) Morgan. He attended Philomath Academy near Tinsley's Bottom. He practiced as Speaker of the Senate, and was Attorney General of the sixth Judicial Circuit.

Pg. 130: Judge Morgan, a Confederate had a Yankee ball in this thigh which he carried to his grave. He was the author of several articles on Jackson County history published in newspapers under the pen name, "Stella".

Senator Albert Gore, Sr. was born on December 26, 1907 near Granville, in Jackson County. He had a cousin, John J. Gore, who was a federal judge for the Middle Tennessee District. Albert Gore, Jr. presently serves as Senator for Tennessee.

Four generation of the Brooks a large land owner in the Brooks' Bend section of Jackson County was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Tennessee. His son, grandson, and greatgrandson also represented the county in the State Legislature.

Dr. S. B. Fowler, a well known physician was born May 24, 1853. He attended Vanderbilt University, then graduated from Ohio College of Medicine. Following his graduation he moved to Gainesboro, Jackson County, and started the practice of medicine. He is credited with having performed the first bloodless hip-joint operation by the Wyeth method south of the Ohio River. He is also said to be the third American doctor ever to perform such an operation by this method. For many years he owned and operated his own infirmary in Gainesboro.

Pg. 131: A native of Jackson Countain, Dr. Harry Lee Page, Co-director of Cardiology at St. Thomas hospital in Nashville, became the first physician in the mid-south to perform a new procedure for the treatment of blocked arteries that may eliminate the need for extensive open heart surgery and reduce hospital stays.

Dr. Page studied the procedure (percutaneous transluminal Coronary Angioplasty) in Switzerland with Dr. Andreas Gruntzig a German Cardiologist.

Nathan Johnson began working for Ford Motor Company at Gainesboro in 1919 and continued working for them sixty years, giving him the distinguished honor of being employed for the longest period of time of any person in the United States.

John E. Proctor, who became president of the Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee, was born in the Whitleyville community. Having completed his grad school education in Jackson County he went to the Pleasant Hill Academy in Putnam County where he worked while completing his high school education.

He was given a ride to Nashville by the man who had just given the baccalaureate address at his graduation. He was eventually employed by the Methodist Publishing House where he worked his way to the top position of the company.

### INTERESTING FACTS – GAINESBORO

Pg. 132: According to the Tennessee State Blue Book, Gainesboro is among the oldest towns in Tennessee. Only nine were incorporated before Gainesboro. The twenty oldest incorporated towns are listed as follows:

1785	Clarksville	1817	Columbia
1799	Elizabethton	1817	Carthage
1806	Nashville	1817	Murfreesboro
1809	McMinnville	1817	Greeneville
1815	Knoxville	1819	Lebanon
1815	Gallatin	1819	Springfield
1815	Franklin	1820	Dover
1815	Jonesboro	1821	Winchester
1815	Surgoinsville	1822	Kingsport
1817	Gainesboro	1823	Paris

Jackson County was established in 1801. There were seventeen counties established in Tennessee before Jackson County in 1801.

There are twenty-three Jackson Counties in the United States. Only Jackson County in Georgia is older than Jackson County, Tennessee. JACKSON COUNTY

**Source:** The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture:  
<http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=J006>

Located in the picturesque foothills of the Cumberland Mountains, Jackson County is known as the "Switzerland of the Cumberlands." Although the western part of Jackson County lies within the Nashville Basin, most of the eastern part of the county is situated within the Highland Rim physiographic province at the foot of the Higher Cumberland Plateau to the east and is part of the Interior Low Plateau. There is much rolling land between sharply incised stream valleys.

Jackson County, named in honor of Andrew Jackson, was created by the Tennessee



legislature in November 1801. It is the second oldest of the twenty-three counties named for Jackson in the United States; only Jackson County in Georgia is older. Temporary county seats were used until about the year 1806, when Williamsburg, named for Sampson Williams, an early pioneer in the area, was named as the county seat.

In 1817 Gainesboro was designated as the permanent county seat and was incorporated in 1820. The land was donated by David Cox. Gainesborough, as it was then spelled, is one of the oldest towns in the state and was named for General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, who fought with Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. The Gainesboro Historic District, which includes the town square and the 1927 Jackson County Courthouse, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The same mountains 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. Timber and farming have been primary occupations in the county since its establishment, and riverboats of bygone days passed through the county daily, carrying passengers, merchandise, agricultural produce, and lumber products. With the flooding of the Cumberland River in 1963 by the Cordell Hull Dam, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the opening of a deepwater port in 1981 near Gainesboro, the river once again became very important to Jackson County.

Sportsmen can enjoy the abundant wildlife--from deer and quail to bass and catfish--in Jackson County year-round. The American bald eagle and the whooping crane can still be seen, and Canadian geese winter in Jackson County. The Granville Marina on the Cordell Hull Lake offers every pleasure in outdoor recreation--from boating to camping. Two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation areas are at Roaring River and Salt Lick Creek.

Jackson County also offers one of the most important historic sites in the upper Cumberlands in Fort Blount and the nearby old town site of Williamsburg. Governor William Blount ordered this frontier fort to be built in 1794 to protect the increasing number of settlers moving over the trail on their way west. William Giles pie operated a tavern and ferry there. The site is located near the Cumberland River about sixteen miles downstream from Gainesboro. The Fort Blount-Williamsburg site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Future projects of the Jackson County Historical Society include the restoration of Fort Blount and the creation of an interest in, and appreciation of, the Old Avery Trace, the first road to enter Jackson County. A bicentennial project traces its roots to a visit to Fort Blount by noted French botanist and explorer Andre Michaux on March 1, 1796.

Since the state legislature passed a law in 1992 designating the yellowwood as Tennessee's official bicentennial tree, Jackson County residents have placed yellowwood trees across the state, including one on the grounds of the State Capitol in Nashville.

Much of the material for a comprehensive history of Gainesboro and Jackson County was destroyed when the courthouse burned on the night of August 14, 1872. All county records were lost in the blaze except those of the chancery court. The chancery court

records survived because Robert A. Cox, clerk and master, maintained his office in a private building away from the courthouse. The loss of the records of the circuit court clerk, the county court clerk, the register of deeds, and the tax assessor generated great confusion for many years.

Agriculture is the oldest enterprise in Jackson County. In 1940, for instance, of the 194,000 acres listed in the county, over 172,000 acres were devoted to farming. Tobacco, livestock, and corn continue to be important farm products. The land area of Jackson County comprises 327 square miles and the population of Gainesboro, in the 2000 census, was 879. The population of Jackson County was 10,984.

Moldon Tayse, Gainesboro

<http://www.ajlambert.com>