

A Brief History of Temperance Hall, TN  
Taken from the book:  
Temperance Hall Remembers Book II  
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Temperance Hall is located in DeKalb County midway between Liberty and Lancaster on Route 264. It was originally part of Smith County but by an act of legislation, dated February 1, 1850, the boundaries of DeKalb County were changed to include several farms from the area. By the passage of this act Temperance hall became part of DeKalb County. Temperance Hall is located in the 15<sup>th</sup> Civil District, which was combined with the 10<sup>th</sup> District (Indian Creek) and portions of Smith County in 1852.

Michael Antoniak published an article in the Smithville Review stating that 6 million years ago this entire area lay beneath an ocean that covered much of the United States. For millions of years the ocean floor was built up with deposits of sea life. For some unknown reason, the area that would be known as the central basin, rose above the ocean surface. The passage of years saw nature greatly alter the face of the county. The action of water in the basin area released lime into the soil and this serves as a natural fertilizer. When the pioneers began moving into this area, they came in search of rich soil that would provide them with a good livelihood. This mighty upheaval of the ocean accounts for the hugh limestone rocks that cover our area.

Temperance Hall is located in the basin area and was settled about the same time as Liberty. The first settler, Stephen Robinson, came to DeKalb County in 1798 along with Adam Dale. He purchased the property now owned by Ethel Sykes Hayes. (He owned land and slaves in Cumberland County, Virginia as early as 1783.) The area of the country where Temperance Hall, Tennessee is located was, at that time, an unbroken canebrake, and inhabited by many Indians who were hostile to the settlers. There were also great quantities of wild animals, the bears often coming around the farm Stephen purchased. In 1780 a hunting party killed 105 bears, 74 buffalo and more than 80 deer, enough game to furnish the families of Nashboro with meat for the entire winter.

Temperance Hall grew up around a mill built on Smith Fork Creek in the early 19th century. This mill received its power from the harnessed waters of Smith Fork Creek. This was done by the use of a dam across the stream which forced the water over a hugh turbine wheel, thereby transmitting power to any portion of the plant that was in need of this power for its operation. The variety and quality of its product was proof of the art and skill of the builder, Samuel Caplinger, who was reported to have bought the future site of Temperance Hall for as little as 25 cents an acre under a land grant from Governor Carroll. Mr. Caplinger was said to be the owner of seven mills on Smith Fork and one on Dry Creek along with 2400 acres of land. When the mill, which was built with slave labor, was completed, Mr. Caplinger built a house nearby. At the present time it is the only house in DeKalb County on the National Register of Historical Places. It was built in 1821 and its structure is unlike any other known house in the State of Tennessee. Its walls are made of heavy hewn timbers filled with brick, plastered inside and covered

outside with clapboard. After Mr. Caplinger, the mill was owned by Nicholas Smith, Dr. R. W. Mason, Alvin Williams, D. Driver, C.D. Williams, Wiley Nixon, Will Midgett and Mr. Curkland. Jack Scott, of Temperance Hall, believes that the mill finally closed down around 1946 when a huge flood overflowed the banks of the Smith Fork and flooded the mill. The water swelled the timbers in the building and ruined the machinery. Finally the mill passed to the inheritance of Mrs. Ocia Carter and Mrs. Minnie Malone. The flour mill was operated by the Temperance Hall Milling Company. *(Pictured below).*



Caplinger's mill proved a prosperous enterprise and there were soon people moving into the area to take advantage of the rich farm land along the Smith Fork. Viewing the background of the community, with its fertile location and the integrity of its settlers, it soon became a self-supporting village. Like all other early settlers they brought with them the tools of their trade to cut timber, build houses and implements for tilling the soil along with a few household goods for cooking, eating and sleeping.

A cluster of pioneer homes grew up around the site of Caplinger's mill and the settlement went without a name for many years. The first five dwellings were the Caplinger house, Popie Oliver's home, the hotel, Dr. Bill Robinson's home and Dr. S. C. Robinson's dwelling. (Jack Scott believes the log cabin located on his farm and the one located on Hayes Ridge and owned by R. D. Hayes are the two oldest in the community.) Caplinger sold his home in the settlement to Nicholas Smith during the 1840's.



The men who located around Temperance Hall in the early 19th century were men of outstanding character, influence and perseverance. They included Stephen Robinson, Samuel Caplinger, Alex Robinson, Nicholas Smith, Daniel Ford, John Mason, John Corley, James Simpson, Matthew Simpson, John Lamberson, George Kelly, Jack Reynolds, Peter Reynolds, Isaac Hayes, the Drivers, the Bates, Lawrences, Oakleys, the Tubbs, the Stephens, the Fishers, the Stokes and others.

The first steamboat of record to ply the Caney Fork River was the "Harry Hill." The

timber for her hull was hewed out by Samuel Caplinger and William Christian at the Caplinger Mill in 1832. The hull was floated in the same year and made her historic trip up the Caney Fork on a high tide to Sligo Landing. In due course, she became a leading packet on the Cumberland River.



When Nicholas Smith bought the Caplinger house, there were strong feelings against alcohol among the area's pioneers and they formed a temperance society. This society became known as the "Sons of Temperance." Nicholas Smith, a member, allowed the society to meet in a large room on the second floor of his house. The society later moved to the hotel which contained a large hall upstairs. There was an instance associated with this large upper room where people assembled to hear lectures on temperance

from which the town received its name. As the meetings continued, this long room became known as "Temperance Hall," thus, becoming the name of the town. This same room was also used for lodge meetings. These weekly meetings soon lent the settlement a notoriety in the area. The seal of the "sons of Temperance" was recently found in the old hotel now used by Ernest Nixon and his family as a private dwelling. The original owner of the hotel was Jacky Mason. Mrs. Ocia Carter says that she can remember the old marker at the hotel that bore his name.

The hotel changed hands several times through the years. Dennis Ward Sykes remembers when it was owned by his grandfather, Jim Sykes, who purchased it from Jimmie Turner. Mr. Sykes operated an undertaking business and was also the local postmaster. Dennis recalls all the drummers coming to town driving big carriages equipped with special containers that held their samples. They would have black drivers, who stayed in the upstairs rooms of the hotel. Mr. Sykes particularly remembers a drummer from Nashville by the name of Arthur Waterman.

The funeral hearses were kept in a big barn. The caskets, referred to as coffins, were kept in what is known as the casket house. They were handmade and, as a general rule, were wider at one end. Mr. Sykes had in his possession, at one time, all the old account books showing that the funerals ranged from \$25.00 to \$40.00 and this amount included everything. His fondest memory is playing in the casket house with his black friends. There was also a showroom at the hotel for the caskets.

Alfie Watson later sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Rich Hayes, who in turn, sold it to the Ernest Nixons in 1933. They moved to the Hall in 1934 and opened a general merchandise and grocery store that remains in business today. Mrs. Allie Nixon, who runs the store, is probably the best ambassadress that Temperance Hall has ever had.

Temperance Hall experienced a slow but steady growth over the next few years and was soon supporting stores of its own. John Mason and Dr. Arch Robinson were the town's first merchants, operating businesses during the 1850's. Dr. Robinson also served the town as one of its early physicians. Following Dr. Arch Robinson's death, his brother, Dr. William B. Robinson, located in Temperance Hall.

After the war, Dr. Thomas Gold entered that field. Other physicians have been Dr. R. W. Mason, Dr. G. W. Martin, and Dr. S. C. Robinson. Dr. Samuel Walker was for some years practicing there also.

Over the years the community grew and soon had a bank, a post office, and a school of its own. The citizens organized a bank known as "The Temperance Hall Bank & Trust Company." Its stockholders were Norman Robinson, Jep Tubb, Jim W. Wauford, and Dixie Driver. Three of these stockholders also served as cashiers: Robinson, Driver and Tubb. The bank was located where Doris Bates now lives and closed, like many others, during the depression. The building burned in later years and only the memory of it remains.

The post office was established in 1850 and was closed in 1904. It operated out of the store now operated by Ernest Nixon. Dan Driver, according to Mrs. Frankie Mason, delivered the mail to Temperance Hall. Jim Sykes was the first postmaster which he accomplished along with his duties as the local undertaker.

The town produced outstanding citizens, many of whom contributed much to the making of DeKalb County. Several such citizens that became state representatives are Lycurgus Driver (Democrat 1903, 1905); his son, Torn Ed Driver (Democrat 1925, 1927); and Colonel William B. Stokes (Whig 1849-1851). There were many educators who taught at Temperance

Hall and four of them were elected as DeKalb County School superintendents. James E. Drake, who taught at the Earl Academy, was not only appointed to be a superintendent in 1899, but he also served as a Quarterly Court Judge in 1905 and again in 1918-1931. Walter Mason served as tax assessor for the county from 1936 to 1944.

Temperance Hall provided many soldiers for the Civil War, serving both the north and the south. Among the town's most illustrious citizens was Civil War General William B. Stokes, whose family was among the area's first settlers. The Stokes family set out for Tennessee in 1818. Enroute from North Carolina, the father, Sylvanus, died. Mrs. Stokes continued the journey with her three children and finally settled in the Temperance Hall area. Her son, William, grew up to serve the Union Army proudly during the war between the states. W. T. Hale's "History of DeKalb County," relates that William Stoke's brother, Thomas (a local farmer and at one time the richest man in DeKalb County as attested to by the fact that at the close of the war in 1865 he had about fifty negroes and large land interests), was a "fire-eating secessionist," as was William at the beginning of the war, although William became a Federal. On July 8, 1889 Colonel Joe Blackburn was in town for the purpose of serving the interests of soldiers and widows for

claims made under a new law.

By the middle of the 1890's the town had grown considerably. An article by "EMH" (author unknown) wrote in the Liberty Herald in January 1895 that Temperance Hall was a little village of about 150 inhabitants, situated on Smith Fork Creek and that it was one of the best sections in Middle Tennessee. There were three dry good stores, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, and two mills. The author also stated that they had three doctors, plenty of carpenters, and men of every profession. The people say there will soon be a railroad. Most of the residents were farmers by profession and produced much corn, wheat, sorghum and livestock which needed to be transported to the larger cities for sale.

On February 15, 1895, the Turner brother's mill burned to the ground. The fire caught from the dust near the furnace where a fire had been the day before. If it had not been for a large snow that lay on the ground, many of the town's houses would have burned. The mill contained 300 bushels of corn, 400 bushels of wheat, 2-1/2 barrels of sorghum, lots of meal, flour and lumber.

Mr. Charlie Williams was a livestock dealer and operated a stockyard of considerable size at the Hall. Once the livestock was purchased it had to be taken to Hickman to be transported by train to various points for purchase. Many times some of the hogs would die on the way. Other stock dealers were Messrs. J. Grand and P. S. Reynolds. Their hogs were shipped by boat from Lancaster. The bulk of the hogs were held for 4 cents a pound. R. D. Hayes remembers raising a sow and pigs when he was a boy and then refusing to sell them to the stock dealer when he came after them. Charlie Williams once started a drive with three carloads of hogs and a span of matched horses. He expected to receive \$400 for the horses. P.L. Reynolds and A. Frazier attended a stock sale and paid \$230 for Colt Lexington and \$500 for W. H. Carpenter's premium mare in 1889. Mr. Wilson Gregson, the father of Mrs. Frankie Mason, was the breeder of fine walking horses. W. H. Frazier had a public sale of horses on October 20, 1894 at his barn in Temperance Hall. He advertised for public sale mares, horses, and jacks to the highest and best bidder with the terms of sale due with a note and two approved securities on "Christmas year's time."

Horse racing was a very popular past-time, which was encouraged and well patronized. There were quite a number of locally famous horses and some had prestige beyond the borders of the state. Tan Fitts, located on the Temperance Hall Road, owned Dock Alvin, Elizabeth Johnson, and Tom Hal, noted racers. He owned some of the most famous race horses in the country. He partially trained "Queen Ariel." He purchased "Elizabeth Johnson" in Utah for the sum of \$1000 who, when she was only 2 years old, won a noted race in Mississippi. Probably the most famous race horse known was "Ariel," a quarter horse, owned by Colonel William B. Stokes. It was told that he won so many stakes that few would be against him and he was finally ruled off the tracks, whereupon, his owner painted him a different color and won other races. But, the paint eventually took off the hair.

Farming continued to be good in the community, depending on the providence of God. The settlers learned to accept the bad weather along with the good. When there was a bad year, wheat sold for \$1.00 a bushel. 1894 was a bad crop year. The corn looked like sulphur had been sprinkled on it and the wheat crop was reported to be no good. Early crops were hemp, cotton, tobacco, wheat, corn, oats and rye. Reaping was done with hand sickles. Plows were bull tongues. Corn was the pioneer's standby and because there was no way that it could be transported to distant markets, it is thought to have contributed to many distilleries in the early years. Corn in 1845 sold for \$1.00 a barrel, while hemp retailed for 5 cents a pound, tobacco 4 cents, flour \$1.50 per hundred, apples and sweet potatoes 25 cents a bushel.

Businesses in the community continued to grow. Work on the roller mill (water mill) was rapidly pushed. Messrs. Winfrey and Winnard built the mill and anxiously waited for the machinery to arrive. John Reynolds operated an engine at the roller mill when the water became too low for service. In 1894, Driver, Sykes and Avant built a new store. Martin and Nixon built an addition onto their building. The Turner brothers operated a saw mill where a great abundance of lumber was produced. W. T. Hale listed L. Driver, Williams and Terry, J. H. Close & Son, Turner & McBride, J. R. Kelley, and L. B. Midgett as operating businesses in Temperance Hall. W. H. Nixon, who published the "History of the Indian Creek Baptist Church," cited general merchandise stores operated by: Jim Sykes; Roy Close; Grady Turner; Hershall Carter; Ernest Nixon; Jimmy Turner; Bill Turner; Kirg & D. Driver; Dixie Driver; Jim Malone; his peddler son, Carl Malone; Clurn Close; C. D. House; Tom Terry; C.D. Willians; Sam Phillips; and Roscoe Judkins. Bernard Lightston was noted as being a clever peddler. Drummers were always thick in town. Driver, Sykes, and Avant reported having a new supply of "persauder oil," widely used for rheumatism, from the Tennessee Chemical Company. Mr. W. D. Irvin was called the "picture man." He was reported to be moving to Lancaster but is presently ill at Dr. Masons. "Big Hunt" was a trader in town

The "Goodspeed History of DeKalb County," noted some of the outstanding men in the Temperance Hall area at that time as being John H. Mason, a well known farmer of the 15th District; J. E. Robinson, a farmer living near Temperance Hall; A. P. Smith, attorney-at-law; T. W. Fitts, a farmer and stock dealer of the 10th District (now the 15th); and Isaac Hayes (great grandfather of R. D. Hayes), an enterprising farmer of the 15th District.

Temperance Hall has always been a quiet religious community, in no small part due to the "Sons of Temperance." The church has always played an important part in the lives of the citizens of the Hall. The first church building in the community was the Mt. Zion Baptist Church (located 2 miles south of Temperance Hall); it was established June 30, 1851. The Methodist Church (located in the town square) was established in 1873. The Temperance Hall Methodist Church (African Branch) was established by the black people in 1880 and disbanded in 1956. The Church of Christ was established in 1904. The Emmanuel Church of Christ was built in 1956 at the site of the old black church. (A history of each church is listed separately.)

Temperance Hall had one of the first telephone offices in the county. The first office was in the home of Benson Midgett. His daughters, Mattie and Nettie, were the telephone operators. Later, an office building was erected on the property now owned by Ray Dunham. It was known as the "switchboard house" and the building still remains as a tribute to the past. The Jim Judkin's family were the first to operate the new switchboard with Mabel and Jim Judkins performing the telephone operating duties. (Lois Tubb Spencer recalls that when she and her sisters would use the phone for a long time, Mrs. Tubb would tell them if they didn't hang up, Mabel and Jim would reach through the phone lines and pull their hair.) Other operators were the Lawrences and the Yeargins. It is believed that the switchboard closed some time in the early fifties.

Temperance Hall had a number of blacksmith shops which were necessary to keep the farm machinery and other items in operating condition. Blacksmithing was a skillful type of work which involved the use of iron and in the making and repairing of plows, wagons, buggies, hoes and other of equipment. Known blacksmiths in the area were: Benson Midgett, Ambrus us Crawford, John Oliver, Bart Midgett, John R. Kelly, Luther McBride, Bernice Midgett, and John and Tim Yeargin.

Mr. Roy Close operated a grist mill in town. John McBride, uncle of Luther McBride, and Jim Turner operated a saw mill. John Martin was the only man in town ever to have a barber shop. Usually hair was cut in the back of a store for 10 cents Sherman Caplinger cut hair for years in the back of Grady Turnerts store and John Corley cut hair in a blacksmith shop. Elzjn Lawrence ran the switchboard in the old house now owned by Ray Dunham and did hair cutting on the side.

The events that have happened and the lives that have been connected with their part in the school affairs of the Temperance Hall community make up the following history of the school.

The first school was a one-room log house located east of the Methodist Church. Among its teachers were Bill "Dad" Robinson of Dowelltown; Sylvaine Stokes of Temperance Hall; Mary L. Wommack (Turner) of Smithville; May Reynolds of Mississippi; and a number of others whose names are not available but belong in the record of the excellent work accomplished there.

Later a frame building was erected on, or near, the site of the Ray Dunham property. The school had large columns in the front, two stories, and a covered front and back entrance. The school was named the Earl Academy suggesting a high type of school work. The name was also in honor of Edna Earl, who was the first teacher to use the new building. She purchased a bell and placed it in the tower that was a part of the structure.

It was reported by the Liberty Herald that school began at the Earl Academy on January 23, 1895. Professors James Drake and Daniel Wilson were teachers that year. Miss Sallie Bass was the music teacher. Professor Drake boarded with the Roy Avant family and later married one of the daughters. Professors Drake and Wilson were considered to be outstanding teachers, attracting many students to the school. Fifty pupils enrolled the first

week and it was thought that 80 to 85 would be enrolled by the following week. There were special arrangements made for the school term concerning board for students, which were considered to be very reasonable. It was suggested that an art class be established since there were several people in the community that were interested. Medal contests were held frequently at the school. Students from other communities competed in the contests so there was much rivalry going on. By February 1895 there were upward of 100 pupils enrolled. The Academy was considered "second to none" in the county.

Others who contributed to the community as teachers were: Mr. Jordan Gothard, Frank Foster, Castel of Georgia, E. W. Brown, Jim Parker, Jep Tubb, Lon Malone, Betty Young, Jim Davenport, Tom Driver, Joe and Dr. Tom Ford, Sid Robinson, and J. F. Caplinger.

About 1920 a new two-story building was erected, where the present Temperance Hall Community Building is located, but it burned in June 1949. The school was later rebuilt. Among the teachers who taught in this building were: Mr. Caplinger, Haston Johnson, Mack Reynolds, James Winnard, Carrie Caplinger Smith, Clara Nixon, Opal Kyle, Ray Burton and a long list of others who made a good record for themselves and the community. Four of the teachers of this school were honored with the position of DeKalb County School superintendents. (Teachers are listed separately in this publication.)

Norma Jean Harlan wrote an article several years ago for the DeKalb County Star concerning Temperance Hall's rich background. She stated that one of her favorite places was the old schoolhouse. She was completely taken with the curtain that let down on the stage. It was like an old vaudeville curtain and she never tired of looking at its rich colors and ads. Ocia Carter taught Norma Jean Harlan music on the piano near the stage. Miss Ocia was also a reporter for the Smithville Review. An article appeared in the Review on August 8, 1984 which called her a legend in her time. No writer ever captured the hearts and attention of her readers as Miss Ocia did. People all over the country looked forward to reading her column every week. She had a unique style of writing that appealed to the young and old alike. Her articles were laced with historical notes concerning Temperance Hall and the surrounding areas. She was a product of the Earl Academy where famous people from everywhere were invited to visit. Miss Ocia is also a gifted musician.

School was a gathering place for the community. It provided a social life for the students who either walked or rode a horse to school. Mr. John R. Kelly, who lived by the school, had a stable for horses that he rented to the students. Sally Jackson relates that Nettie Hayes furnished her with a horse to ride to school provided that she would take Mrs. Hayes little girl, Inez, to school at the same time. Mrs. Allie Nixon remembers riding a horse all the way from Cove Hollow to attend school at Temperance Hall.

All ages occupied the one or two room schools. Often the young boys were larger than the teachers so that there was no way discipline could be enforced if the student decided against it. Usually the parents saw to the behavior of their children. School was only held about three months out of the year. Students brought their lunch in a lard or molasses bucket and shared it with their brothers and sisters. The big boys were usually full of mischief. One of their most exciting pranks was when they "high-lifed" the principal's



horse, which broke out of the stable and took off toward town with its stirrups sticking straight out.

The first two graduates of the Temperance Hall High School were: Shelton Close and Sid Jones. The High School only went to the 10th grade. Before higher education was established in the community the students were sent to boarding schools. Leslie Hayes and his cousin 3. Fantley Trapp went to school at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee for a number of years. Their mothers were sisters to Torn Terry, who operated a business at the Hall.

Temperance Hall had some excellent teachers in spite of the fact that they only received from \$20.00 to \$30.00 per month. This job also included the building of fires and the cleaning of the school.



1st Row (L to R)

Buford Driver, Howard Robinson, Edwin Brown Close, Ben Watts, George Gragson, Billy Mason, Buddy Judkins, Doss House, Gerald Turner, (unknown), Hobart Trusty

2nd Row (L to R)

Drusie May House Midgett, Sally Sullins Stanley, Frances Smith King, Evelyn House Nokes, Opal Nixon Kyle, Joyce Driver Powers, Frankie Jo Reynolds Graham, Audra McBride Grisham, Ruth Williams Robinson, Elaine Carter McDonald and Josie Ellen Parkerson Bell

3rd Row (L to R)

Bethel Kent, Billy Judkins, Eva Bates Carter, Irene Dickens Lockhart, Amon McBride, Vada Judkins Davis, Robbie Lou Moss Gass, Frances Scott Hale

4th Row (L to R)

George Corley (teacher), Alton Bates, J. C. Moss, Jim McBride, Dalton Fish, James Midgett, Verlis Bates Larnberson, Delma Driver Murphy, Johnnie Cripps Nixon, Helen McBride Strout

Many students boarded at the Hall and attended the Earl Academy. Famous people from

everywhere were invited to visit and speak at the school, where college-level work was taught. W. T. Hale cites early teachers as being: Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Bush, Mr. Hatcher, A.L. R Reynolds, A. L. Malone, E. W. Brown, J. W. Thomison, Joseph Ford, Dr. Thomas Ford, Frank Foster, Leroy Smith, Stella Young and Miss Lizzie Simpson, who taught in the vicinity some years following the Civil War.

Temperance Hall had a black as well as a white school. W. T. Nixon states that Temperance Hall had four institutions of learning: one in the cedar lot above the Methodist church; one near the center of town, a three-room school known as the Earl Academy and one on Long Branch Road, just out of town, there was a school for the black students. Dr. R. W. Mason donated the land for their school and church. The last school built was on the south side of town which was a seven-room structure designed for both elementary and high school grades.

The Temperance Hall School was finally closed in the early 1960's for lack of pupils. The rules were that a school had to have 75 pupils for 3 teachers and 50 pupils for 2 teachers. When the school closed much of the community life died. The building was renovated under the Model Cities Program and on October 31, 1971 the community held an open house for the "new" building. It now serves as a community center and is the hub of many activities, being used for family gatherings, sports, square dancing, community meetings and polling place. There is currently an active community club. Mrs. Clara Nixon is the President, Ethel Hayes the Treasurer, Marjorie Hayes the Secretary, and Elmer Maynard is the Vice-President.

In the early years of the Temperance Hall community, black people made up a large portion of the population. Besides working for the white people, they were also farmers and practiced other types of trades. As stated before, they had their own school and church and contributed much to the area.

In 1870 the DeKalb County census recorded twenty black males and twenty-four black females in the community. At the present time there are no blacks located in Temperance Hall, but the people of the community hold them in the highest respect and have many fond memories of days gone by when they lived there. The 1870 census lists Jasper Gardenhire, Isaac Robinson, Samuel Stokes, Alex McGee, Joseph Baty, and John Stokes as living in the area with their families. Most of them were listed as farmers. Temperance Hall is shown as having a black school in the Quarterly Court Minutes of January 1, 1904. All schools have now been integrated and DeKalb County has produced some very outstanding black students of which they are very proud. The African Methodist Church was established in 1880 and disbanded in 1956 when all the blacks moved away.

The last blacks to live at Temperance Hall were Edd Tubbs and his daughter, Inez, who now works as a nurse for Dr. David Darrah in Alexandria. They lived in the house directly in back of the Methodist Church. Mr. Tubbs farmed for George Martin for 28 years. It was said that he had as much money in the Bank of Temperance Hall as anybody in the community, but he lost it all when the bank failed. Edd had twelve children and he provided well for them all. In the winter he would kill at least 12 hogs to provide them with meat.

William Tubbs said his grandfather, Rache Bates, was a blacksmith and he also made caskets for people. William recalls walking all the way to Cove Hollow to help rescue a mule of Floyd Nixon's that was stranded in a flooded barn. Later he helped to save the life of Willie Weeden, whose horse and buggy were being swept away in the flood waters of the Smith Fork. When William went to school he said there was one old black teacher that the boys just couldn't stand, so they would put pins and burrs on her seat, but everyone liked Daisy Tubbs. He recalls an old black man by the name of James W. Whitley, who would hide his whiskey in an old rock well. William would watch him, then slip out at night to take the whiskey and drink it.

When Pauline Tubbs was interviewed, she said that she had been gone from the Hall for 52 years, but she still remembers the people there and knows much of the history of the area. Pauline's great great grandmother, Mairiah Stokes, was a slave, who was given the name of her owner.

Pearl hunting in the Caney Fork River was carried on for some years around Temperance Hall until the flood control of the Caney Fork killed most of the mussels. Pearls, bringing from \$500 to \$1800, have been found. A black Smithville man related the finding of a large pearl that enabled him to purchase a farm with the money he obtained from its sale. Many people hunted in their spare time. S. L. Fitts of Temperance Hall was one of the most successful pearl dealers. Roscoe Judkins and his family would go every year after their crops were laid by. An article published in the Liberty Herald on September 2, 1896 reported that many people from Temperance Hall were spending time in waters of the Caney Fork pearling. Dent Trapp found a nice pearl for which he refused \$200.

A Klu Klux Klan was in operation at the Hall for a short period of time. However, no one knew who their members were. In 1895 they were said to have visited a very bad house at Cove Hollow. The women were told to leave within 2 days or they would be killed; but when the women wouldn't leave, the Klan tore the roof from their house, letting in the rain.

The land for the town cemetery was donated by Jack Tubb. However, there is no Tubb buried there. Most people had their own private cemeteries which were located on their farms. The town cemetery, known as Tubbs Cemetery, is located back of the Nicholas Smith house on a hill overlooking the valley. The first recorded burials there were Adelia Mason on August 18, 1859 and Lilia D. Robinson in the same month (both were infants). The oldest person buried there was John Robinson, born January 27, 1798 and buried October 16, 1877. The cemetery contains many fieldstones (used as markers) with no names. An interesting marker is Barbary Christian, born 1810 - died March 26, 1860 - Consort of W. H. Christian. The Tubbs cemetery is now closed for burials except for the Hayes and Martins families. Messrs. Leslie Hayes and Mr. John Martin purchased additional land for their own private use and refenced the cemetery. At the present, a trust fund is being established to maintain the cemetery in the future.

There are several other cemeteries located in the community. The Rose Cemetery is

located on the Lancaster-Temperance Hall Road at Toy Rose's home. The Bates Cemetery is located on the Lancaster Temperance Hall Road, 1/2 mile east of the Hickman - Temperance Hall Road on Fred Manning's farm. The oldest person buried there is Ann Nollner, born September 19, 1796 and died September 30, 1857. There is a black cemetery located on the south side of Smith Fork about 1 mile east of Temperance Hall. Young Stokes was the oldest person buried there as he was born May 10, 1852. Edd Tubbs was the last person buried there in 1956.

Temperance Hall was never incorporated as a town but it was one of the most prosperous communities in DeKalb County for many years due to the rich fertile soil and the enterprising people living there. The town stressed education and provided many cultural activities for its residents. Lectures were given in the old hotel and there was a string band that performed for the guests. James Avant, of Alexandria, said he could hardly wait till the weekend, as he would be off to Temperance Hall where all the action was.

The population, however, began to decline during the depression when many of the farmers left their land to go to work in the factories up north. The 1930's saw the beginnings of a shift in population as the residents headed to the industrial centers such as Detroit for their part of the American dream. This exodus reduced the community population and emptied many of its hollows. In the 1940's the establishment of industries in Smithville and Alexandria further decreased the population. (In 1870 the population was 392 people, 79 dwellings, and 80 families.) World War II and modern transportation also contributed to the rapid change experienced by Temperance Hall reflecting closed businesses, schools, and even churches.

World War II had its effect on Temperance Hall, as it did in many small communities across the country, in that several of the young people in the community gave their lives for the cause of freedom. These patriotic young men were: Will Putty, James Slagle, John Mosley, and Fred Doss House. The people of Temperance Hall will be forever indebted to these young men and will always hold their sacrifice near and dear to their hearts.

Nixon's store is a gathering place in Temperance Hall for all the local farmers and retired men. Here, all the world's problems, are discussed and solutions offered. Temperance Hall continues to produce outstanding young people who become educators, lawyers, teachers, engineers and other professionals. Mrs. Popie Oliver has the title of having lived in Temperance Hall the longest. Toy Nixon has lived in the Hall longer than any other man (he moved here when he was 12). Mrs. Ola Lamberson is the town's oldest citizen; she recently celebrated her 90th birthday on July 19, 1986.

Now all that remains of the business district is a general store, an old hotel (now a residence), three churches, a community building, and a few other buildings scattered in a small circular cluster in a fading town. Most of the buildings were torn down and the lumber sold during the depression. With businesses gone, the young people in town must look for employment elsewhere. Many migrate to the cities to find work and establish their families. However, a number of people still remain in the town where they do not have to lock their doors from their neighbors. When one hurts, all hurt. Temperance Hall

remains a caring community and those remaining are preserving its way of life.

One thing that does remain among its salt-of-the-earth people is the pride they have in their place in the history of this area and their contributions as Tennesseans. Their sentiments are summed up in a statement by Dinah H. House when describing the House families love for the Temperance Hall community:

...deeply engraved in our hearts is this heritage, this love for a place and for a people. It is suspended in time and memory and continues to grow. It is a place with which we keep in touch through the lives of those we know and love.”

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