

Days Of Old Sumner County

Newsletter No. 14, April 2016
Sumner County Historical Society

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SCHS to Present WW I Memorabilia

The annual April dinner and membership meeting of the Sumner County Historical Society will focus on pictures and stories about Sumner Countians during WWI. Attendees who have photographs, letters or keepsakes relating to the war are asked to bring one sample, which they can show and describe to the audience.

"We hope to see some fascinating memorabilia about this era, now a hundred years in our past," said SCHS President Ken Thomson. "We want to remember and preserve reminders of this time. We don't want our history lost."

The meeting will be Thursday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Gallatin First Baptist Church, 290 E. Winchester Street, Bldg B. Dinner is \$18.50 per person. Annual membership cost is \$25 per family, \$20 per individual and \$10 per student. Reservations must be made by April 12. Invitations with reservation return information were sent to members, but the historical social welcomes non-members to attend and to join the organization too. For information, call Sumner County Archives at 615-452-0037 or e-mail Bonnie Martin sumnersettlers@yahoo.com.

In keeping with the WWI

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Photo by Rick Hendrix of Hawthorn Hill, fresh from 2015 renovations

Hawthorn Hill: Researched, Restored

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Editor's Note: Hawthorn Hill State Historic Site, located in Castalian Springs, was beautifully restored in 2015 and will be open to the public in May.

It is not just Hawthorn Hill house that has been revitalized; its history has been revisited and corrected too. The house, which historians have said for years was the boyhood home of Tennessee Gov. William Brimage Bate, is now known to have been the home of William Bate's grandfather, Col. Humphrey Bate—not William.

Rick Hendrix, director of both Hawthorn Hill and historic Wynnewood, explains that new information came to light from research undertaken during the last several months. "William Bate's home, built by his father James, is on Rocks Springs Road, and it still stands. That was the governor's home throughout his life, not Hawthorn Hill. Some time ago, someone got it wrong, and that information was passed down."

It is easy to see how the error occurred. William Bate was born in 1826 at Hawthorn Hill, but that was only because his mother Amanda went into labor there while visiting her sister there. James Bate was married to Amanda Patience Weatherred, and his father Humphrey was married to her sister, Anne Franklin Weatherred. Father and son married sisters. It is likely that grandson/nephew William was in and **(See HAWTHORNE, Page 11)**

Henry Bradford's Legacy: Bradford-Berry House

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Hendersonville's Bradford-Berry House, located on Main Street within a few hundred yards from City Hall—now sitting dark and empty—was once a showplace filled with the sparkle of candles and chandeliers, the elegant setting for the 1813 wedding between Tennessee's longest-serving governor and a daughter of the house.

One of Sumner County's fine federalist-style brick homes, the house was the scene of the marriage between Cecilia Bradford, the daughter of Revolutionary War veteran Henry Bradford and his wife Elizabeth and William Carroll, who became the governor of Tennessee (1821-1827 and 1829-1835). According to court records, Henry even signed a marriage bond for the couple, a monetary indication that the Bradford and Carroll families were trusted friends.

The wedding took place in the front parlor and is described in *Salt of the Earth*, a family history written by Bradford descendant Sara Bradford Saunders. She quotes Nannie Smith Berry (1861-1961), whose family owned the house from 1886 to 1968 and who learned of the wedding from an eyewitness.

"A great day came to Hazelpatch (Bradford-Berry's original name) at Cecilia Bradford's and William Carroll's wedding," said Berry. "Before the wedding, she dressed in her billowing white gown, aided by her sister. A large company had been invited. Probably, Cecilia walked down the circular stairway on the arm of her father, Henry Bradford. Evidently, guests at the wedding included Dr. James Priestly and Lady, and Dr. Thomas Craighead and Lady. It is not known which minister performed the ceremony. Perhaps it was Dr. Priestly, as he was a special friend of the Bradford's. After the ceremony, the guests were served on the long banquet table. I feel sure it was a midday meal with baked ham, beaten biscuits, pumpkin and other vegetables, cake and pie."

The Tale of Henry Bradford 1784

Hazelpatch was built by Henry Bradford, circa 1796. Henry Bradford, born in 1758, was the son of William Bradford and Mary Morgan of Virginia. William Bradford died when Henry was only two, leaving the toddler (his "well beloved son Henry") 206 acres of Virginia land in his will.

According to records in *Salt of the Earth*, Henry was apprenticed with the consent of his mother in February 1770 when he was 12 years old to a tailor—John Cooke of Fauquier Co., Va. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Henry, 18, left

his apprenticeship and went to fight. He enlisted in April 1776 and was listed in December 1777 as a sergeant and also as absent, then wounded and discharged.

Sara Saunders noted, "It appears from the records that after Henry Bradford received a medical discharge from the army, and after independence from Britain, he joined the growing tide of westward expansion." Bradford, then 26, left Virginia in 1784 with a group that included John Carr, who described the journey in his book, *Early Times in Middle Tennessee*. Bradford and at least 14 others lagged behind the other travelers and were ambushed by Indians at Hazel Patch, Ky.

Carr wrote, "At the time of the attack, he [Bradford] was sitting in a small tent and the Indians, bursting into it seized him behind by a short coat he wore, but throwing out his arms behind he slipped out of it and fled. He made an effort to catch one of two fine mares he had along, satisfied that if he got one the other would follow, but he could only get hold of an old horse. Twisting a grapevine for a bridle, he struck the trail again and had gone but a little distance when he saw a wounded man sitting by the roadside. He took him up before him and carried him all that night, arriving at our camp the next morning where his clothes were changed, they being all bloody from contact with the wounded man."

When he got to Tennessee, Bradford first chose a site for a land grant then joined his neighbors in building a stockade, where he (and eventually his family) lived until the house was built. From 1784-1794, Bradford was subject to call to defend against Indian attacks.

The sort of heroism he showed at Hazel Patch, Ky., his war record, powerful friends and character got Bradford a good job as a revenueur in Sumner and Davidson counties shortly after coming to Tennessee. His auspicious name may have helped. According to a report by Emma Carroll Tucker, a descendant of Cecilia Bradford Carroll, in *The American Historical Magazine & Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, the Bradfords' were descendants of the famed governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony, Mass. (Vol. 7, Oct. 1902).

Bradford made friends in the new territory, and in 1785 he married a young widow, Elizabeth Paine Blakemore, whom he brought back to Sumner

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County from Virginia. She had a three-year-old daughter, called Molly. How and where Henry and Elizabeth met is unknown.

According to an interview with Bradford's descendants that appeared in the *Nashville Tennessean*, March 21, 1948, "He saved the money he made from the government job, the job he got because he had the confidence of [John] Adams and [Thomas] Jefferson. They knew the record he made as an 18-year-old lad in the Revolutionary war, and they considered him a good judge of men, a good businessman if he had the chance...A thick-set, well-made and handsome man, 'somewhat aristocratic in his manners,' young Bradford liked the kind of people who settled this area and the rugged grandeur of their life. He saved enough money to buy a farm and build the brick house in Sumner County for his growing family of four sons and two daughters."

Bradford called the homestead Hazelpatch (not to be confused with Hazel Path mansion, across the street). His decision to use brick, rare for those days, showed him to be a man of substance. He sent back to his stepfather in Virginia—his mother Mary had long since remarried William Nash—and asked to borrow slaves to come to Tennessee and make brick for the house. This was arranged; slaves fired bricks on the site. A former slave, Rachel Walker, verified this, telling Saunders that her husband was among those whom Nash sent.

Outer walls of the house were two-feet thick. The front entrance opened directly into a long hall with rear circular stairway. There were three large rooms upstairs and four rooms downstairs: parlor, dining room (with built-in cabinet), family room and kitchen with a porch out the side. Windows were ordered from back East and brought down the river. There was a huge

basement of native stone with a large fireplace on one wall. Carved mantles and woodwork existed throughout the house.

By the time he started building, Bradford was well known in the area. As a revenueur, he travelled the countryside, learning every farm and cabin in the Cumberland settlement. Almost all landowners made wine or whisky in those days, and Bradford kept precise records in a leather-bound book, which was passed down through his family. It included neat tables of the location and output of each still and the taxes due. "Andrew Jackson and John Buchanan, Robert Cartwright and Thomas Talbot, great pioneers by the score, along with unknown Ezekiels and Isaacs, Elihus and Ephraims, are still beautifully legible in brown ink in the brown leather book that the smart revenueur kept," according to the 1948 *Tennessean* article.

Bradford sold his land in Virginia in May 1802, and bought additional property in Tennessee in November 1802. A deed transferring 220 acres of land in Davidson County, Tennessee, from John Blakemore to Henry Bradford was presented in a court presided over by Andrew Jackson, with William Henderson also presiding.

Henry and Elizabeth Bradford's children were: Larkin, Ira, Henry, Priestley, Cecilia and Sophia.

Henry Bradford died in 1815 at age 57, and his possessions (including tracts of land and slaves) were divided equally among his children. Hazelpatch homestead was left to his two youngest children: Sophia and Priestly. Sophia married George Grant and moved to Pittsburg. Priestley and his wife, Elizabeth Jouette, lived in the house.

The first post office and stage coach stop in Hendersonville were on a small corner of Henry Bradford's property.



Wynnewood State Historic Site's main house

Wynnewood: Not a Stagecoach Inn Afterall!

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

There are still mysteries afoot at historic Wynnewood State Historic Site, and there are mysteries that have only recently been solved. "A lot of things written in history books about this place are wrong," said Wynnewood Director Rick Hendrix, "but we're learning more and setting the record straight."

Wynnewood, located in Sumner's Castalian Springs, is a grouping of five log buildings, including the main house, which has an open breezeway in the center. The main house is 142 feet long, the largest pioneer log structure in Tennessee. Log cabins on the property were used as guest houses, a post office, general store and doctor's office.

The biggest historic "wrong" about Wynnewood is that it was built as a stagecoach inn. "Everything written [before 2015] tries to connect it to stagecoaches, but in reality Wynnewood was built to be a resort—a mineral springs resort—not a stagecoach inn," said Hendrix. "It was on the main stagecoach route that connected Knoxville to Nashville, but they never stabled horses here. They never changed horses here. Stagecoach travelers did not spend the night."

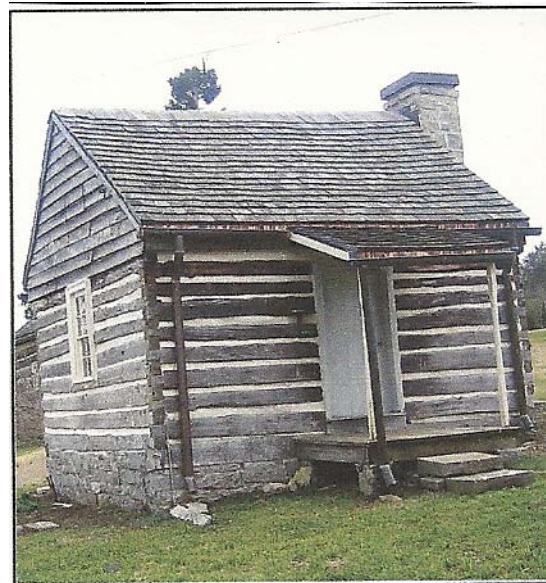
He noted that papers written by George Wynne, grandson of the builder, stated that the stagecoach changed horses at Carthage, continued westward and changed horses again in Hartsville, and then went on to Gallatin and changed horses there.

"Wynnewood was a half-way house between these stops," said Hendrix. "The owners wanted to entice stage travelers by letting them see the resort so they would come back later with their families. This was a great marketing idea—mineral spring resorts were popular in the 19th century—but it fell apart when the stage line relocated south across the Cumberland River in the 1830s, about the time the house was finished. The owners tried to make the resort work, but it was like when the Interstate bypasses a place; it withered on the vine."

The house was built in 1829 by Col. Alfred Royal Wynne (known as A.R.) and his partners, Stephen Roberts, Col. Humphrey Bate and

William Cage. They organized the Castalian Company and built Wynnewood—originally called Castalian Springs—across the road from mineral springs. In his 1834 book, *The Tennessee Gazetteer*, Eastin Morris said that Castalian Springs offered spacious and comfortable buildings to accommodate visitors partaking of numerous fountains of "uncommonly cold, clear and palatable" water that contained sulphur, soda, salts and magnesia.

By 1834, Roberts and Bate were ready to pull out of the partnership, so Wynne (b. 1800, d. 1893) bought them out and made Wynnewood his family home. He and wife, Almira Winchester, had 14 children. Wynne continued to accept tourists and built cabins where they could stay. He added a race track, and visitors came from miles around to bet on the horses. "It took a few years for the place to catch on," said Hendrix. "Near as we can tell, it took until 1839 to become a popular resort. We found news articles from 1839 about the colonel adding huts for guests who wanted more privacy. The whole eastern wing was probably added then too."



One of the cottages at Wynnewood

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WYNNEWOOD, Continued from Page 4

Construction Dates, Purpose Corrected

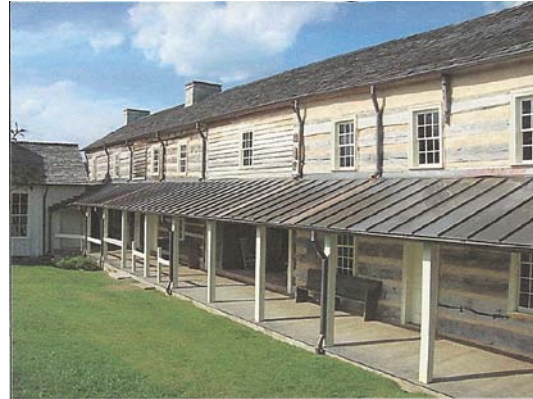
Another historic wrong about Wynnewood has to do with construction dates. “According to family lore, what we know as the dining room, or Bledsoe cabin, was the first section of Wynnewood to be constructed and was built by Isaac Bledsoe. That being the case, the room would have had to have been built between 1772 and 1780. But when the Geography Department of UT Knoxville did a dendrochronology (tree ring) study of the building in 2013, it showed that the logs had been cut between April and May of 1805—which tells me that Isaac Bledsoe had been dead 12 years before this section was even built!” said Hendrix.

Now that they know the dates, historians have stopped calling this part of the house the Bledsoe cabin. They refer to it as the “Winchester cabin” because they know that James Winchester owned the property in 1805.

The change in dates opened another keg of worms. “I was really scratching my head,” said Hendrix. “If this wasn’t Bledsoe’s cabin, what was its purpose back in 1805? Then we came across an ad in the *Nashville Whig* in which James Winchester advertised a job for an expert in extracting salt from sulphur. We now believe that this was a workshop for extracting salt.”

Was Wynne a ‘Flip-Flopper?’

Additional research has led to another change—this to do with questions about Col. A.R. Wynne himself, specifically where his allegiance lay during the Civil War. “We know that Col. Wynne was a staunch Unionist and opposed secession from early on,” said Hendrix. “He wrote letters to Andrew Johnson saying things like God preserve the Constitution and God save the United States, but he was also a Jacksonian Democrat, and he had four sons who fought for the Confederacy. It was always rumored that he flip-flopped. He was actually arrested and his loyalty questioned by both sides during the war; they couldn’t figure out what side of the fence he was on.”



A covered walkway connects the main house to the kitchen at Wynnewood.

His Unionist beliefs are called into question partly because Wynne is known to have given breakfast to 43 members of John Hunt Morgan’s Raiders as they fled from the Yankees early in 1862.

But, if he was a Confederate, why was his house left in tact during the war? In December of 1862, 6,000 Union troops camped for six weeks on the property. These soldiers—reinforcements sent to trap Morgan if he came back to hit the railroads between Gallatin and Hartsville—built earthworks at Wynnewood, but they did not pillage, burn or commandeer the house. Until recently, historians were simply left to ponder this unusual restraint.

“I’d always thought Col. Wynne must’ve been a heck of a diplomat to get along with both sides,” said Hendrix. “But then we discovered that the Yankees were under the command of Col. John M. Harlan, and that explained it all. Col. Harlan had a strict policy against foraging. He absolutely forbade his men to take anything; they hated him for it and wrote letters home about it. He’s the reason Wynnewood was unharmed—not Col. Wynne’s diplomacy.”

In his lifetime, Wynne applied to the federal government to be reimbursed for the damage done by the Union occupation to his land, and he was denied. The government held that he was a Confederate and not entitled to reparations. After Wynne’s death, his daughters reapplied for reparations, and in 1903 the government changed its position about Wynne’s allegiance and reimbursed the family.

Editor’s Note: More dendrochronology studies will be conducted by UT this Spring to shed further light on construction dates throughout the state historic site.

Looking Back to Storm of 1890

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

In her 2013 book about the W.Y. Allen and Katie Trousdale romance, *The Lost World of Langley Hall*, Hendersonville author Judith Morgan uses letters to young Bailie Peyton, then living in Alabama, to describe events in Sumner County in the spring of 1890. A chapter entitled “Dark Clouds” details the terrible storm of March 27.

Bailie Peyton was the son of Fannie Trousdale Peyton and John Bell Peyton of Gallatin, who married in 1861. Mary Bugg Peyton and W.T. Peyton, mentioned below, were his brother and sister. Louise Allen and Katie Trousdale were his cousins.

Bailie Peyton got letters from home filled with “local happenings” of Gallatin. His mother, “bubbling with news,” wrote early in 1890 about an upcoming Gallatin “Business Carnival” and other family matters.

“The young ladies of this place, forty-eight in number, under Miss Willie Elkin’s direction are going to have quite a novel entertainment for the benefit of the Baptist Church—each young ladie is to represent a business house in the town. They are not confined to stores, but all business interests are to be represented except the salloons. Mary B. has been requested by McKnight to represent his drugstore, Louise Allen the new bank, Katie T. Will and Peyton’s store... Each firm pays two dollars for the privilege of advertising in this way. That fund with the amount received at the door goes to the church... They will have music recitations and other things for the entertainment and edification of the audience. I hope you can be with us the first of April to witness the grand “Business Carnival.”

Morgan wrote, “Typical of Gallatin at this time, people participate in such money-making efforts and are enthusiastic irrespective of church affiliation. It is a telling detail that “Katie T.” is representing Will Allen’s business.

“Preparations for the “Business Carnival are in full flood on the night of March 27. As so often happens during the spring in this part of the country, it is a stormy night. The only hint of what lies ahead, if anyone is paying attention, is the falling barometer. A severe storm system, ‘...its influence...felt from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic, and from Georgia to the lakes,’ is making its way across the country. Hundreds of people will be killed in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

“Gallatin is not spared,” Morgan wrote. “A storm approaches Gallatin from the Cumberland River

at Woods Ferry and moves in a northeasterly direction, along Cairo road, leaving downed fences, uprooted trees, ad unroofed houses in its wake. The “cyclone’ then directly strikes Will Allen’s sister Beckie’s [Rebecca Allen Hibbett]house, only a mile or so from the Allen family home on Hartsville Pike, completely destroying it and blowing away the barn as well before moving on to destroy other homes.

“It is a confusing scene of death and destruction, Morgan wrote, “and reports are garbled as they are sent out, mixing up names, confusing details, but ultimately telling the appalling story:

‘The cloud was funnel shaped and inky black... The brick residence of John Hibbett was completely blown away. The 18 months old baby of John Hibbett and a boy twelve years old, son of Palo Langford, were killed. Hibbett and his wife are horribly mangled... A little boy, son of Hibbett, two years old, crawled from under the debris and crawled over to a neighbor’s house through the storm. The scene at Hibbett’s was sickening... John Hibbett Jr., had his skull crushed, but is doing well... All the dead and wounded were moved to the residence of Mrs. Van Allen, about one mile from town...’

“Eventually, the story becomes clear,” Morgan wrote. “It is Irene Langford, not her brother Frank, who is spending the night at Aunt Beckie’s. Irene, the 12-year-old daughter of Will’s sister Allie and her husband P.A. Langford, is dead, [Beckie’s] husband John is also dead. They lie “...mangled corpses at the residence of Mrs. Van Allen.” Beckie is injured, but survives. Little Charlie Hibbett, actually five rather than two years old, also survives the storm. Family lore says a rocking chair turned over on him, protecting him. Seven-year-old John Allen Hibbett has been struck in the head by a brick. A steel plate will be used to repair his skull, and he, too, survives...”

Despite the community’s tragedy, the Business Carnival took place 12 days later on April 9 at Tomkins Opera House. Ladies wore party dresses and banners advertising businesses. Men wore their Knights of Pythias garb as members of a secret philanthropic fraternal order. Photographs were made, freezing forever a room of unsmiling faces. Seriousness was the fashion for photos of the day, but in this case they likely also reflected heavy hearts, journeying on despite deep loss.

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The following Gallatin news story, dated April 10, 1890, describes the Merchant Carnival Night.

A NOTABLE AFFAIR

Merchants' Carnival Last Night at Gallatin

Tomkins' Opera House Crowded With People

Decidedly the best entertainment that ever held the boards at Tomkins' Opera House was given tonight. Every seat was sold, and it was the largest and most select audience that ever assembled in our handsome amusement hall. For weeks 60 young ladies have been drilling daily and nightly for the purpose of giving an exhibition drill, which has been styled a Merchants' carnival. All the firms in Gallatin were represented, and the drill was as well executed as any that delighted the thousands at West Side Park, when all Tennessee had the military craze some few years since. The various movements were perfect, and the management should feel justly proud of the performance. Surely the audience was delighted, and never failed to applaud at the proper time. Some 60 people were on the stage in the grand march, when the various fancy movements were gone through. The various companies were made up of our prettiest Sumner County girls—beauties and no mistake.

Company A was the first on the programme, and when Capt. D.B. Anderson, the drill master, brought them to a company front the applause was deafening. Their every movement was perfect, and they responded to all commands in a manner that would have done credit to the 'Chicks' of Memphis, of the lamented Porter Rifles of Nashville, who won laurels...

Second on the programme was the recitation of Miss Lizzie Lewis, which was well received.



In this photo from Ken Thomson's collection is Drill Co. B, (front, l. to r.) Capt. David Blythe Anderson, Annie Powell, Willie Elkin, Grace Franklin, Minnie Brown, (back, r. to l.) William Young Allen, Minnie Powell, Eddie Cook, Ethel Somers, Lizzie Lewis.

Company B, composed of 12 young ladies in bright costumes, followed and put up a splendid drill, showing clearly that they were soldiers of

the first water also. Their movements were different from Company A, but were superbly executed. Their wheels were loudly applauded, and when they were marched on the stage everybody claimed that it was a difficult matter to decide which was the better of the two squads.

This was followed by a song by Miss Eliza Reid, Gallatin's song bird. She was in fine voice, and rendered one of her sweetest melodies in a very artistic style. She was warmly encored and responded with that sweet old song from *The Bohemian Girl*, "I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls," which brought forth a storm of applause.

Miss Prudie Simpson followed on the programme and played a violin selection most cleverly.



In this photo from Ken Thomson's collection is Drill Co. C: (front, l. to r.) Capt. David Blythe, Eleanor Katherine Trousdale, Annie House, Annie F. Powell, Mary Bugg Peyton, Laura Scott, Lizzie Bell, (back, left to right) Dr. Lewis Miller Woodson, Louise Trousdale Allen, Eva Brown, Bessie Schell, Maggie Spradlin, Carrie Powell, Ellen Miller.

Company C was next to drill, and cheers and applause were so great that it was difficult to hear the commands. They stepped to martial music, "Down Went McGinty," like old veterans, and their wheels and flank movements were grand. The girls had watched closely every movement of the companies that had preceded them, and they were determined not to be outdone or lose any laurels, and they didn't. When they executed the programme assigned by their captain, a shower of applause and flowers followed their exit...

After a sweet song by Miss Mai Buchanan, who sang in a most flexible and sweet voice, Company D entered the arena, and as this was the recognized leader in the drill movements, their appearance was the signal for rounds of applause. They put up a perfect drill and kept perfect time to the sweet music...Distances were closely observed, and it was remarkable how well their part of the programme was executed. This squad was very uniform, being but a slight difference in height of any of the 12 young ladies, and they presented a most pretty picture.

After a recitation by Miss Katie Sullivan, the grand march was given, when all the companies took part...The girls looked beautiful, and they were bedecked and bejeweled in sparkling diamonds, rubies and sapphires...

Hendersonville: City Government Starts in 1969

By Jamie Clary

In 1973, more than a year before the nation experienced a presidential resignation for the first time, Hendersonville residents witnessed a mayoral resignation for the first time.

L.H. Dink Newman, who lived on Powell Dr. at the time, watched Hendersonville grow after the creation of Old Hickory Dam. In 1964, he and a few neighbors initiated the idea of creating a city government for the southwestern corner of Sumner County. By a huge margin, the idea failed by referendum that year. Newman learned a lesson but tried again in 1968.

Instead of the vast area that was vaguely considered Hendersonville, Newman drew proposed city borders around a much smaller area. The 1964 attempt had included 6,500 people; the 1968 effort involved only 262. The borders included 17/100 of a square mile.

The strategy worked, at least on Election Day, but some people considered it a ploy.

A month after the referendum passed to form a city government, Newman, Ed Sisco, and Louis Oliver (grandfather of the current judge) were elected the first city commissioners. Acting on behalf of people who opposed Newman's methods, Bill Cole, a community leader and general manager of the Hendersonville Utility District, filed a lawsuit that stopped the commissioners from taking office.

Cole argued that the City of Hendersonville included an area too small to be a city. Cole suspected that Newman's plan was to expand the city's borders by annexation. The city government could redraw its borders to take in more land without the approval of the residents living on that land. Cole predicted that what had been rejected by referendum in 1964 would be accomplished by annexation in 1968.

Thirteen months after the suit was filed, The Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in favor of the city. The three commissioners swore their oaths of office immediately. At their first meeting, they elected Newman to be the mayor.

Under the commissioner/city manager form of government, the three commissioners elected one of themselves to be mayor, largely a ceremonial title. That person would chair city meetings and speak at official events. The three commissioners also voted to hire a city manager

to administer the day-to-day operations of the city.

As Cole had predicted, Newman soon placed annexation ordinances on the city's agendas. The earliest annexations were uncontested because they included residents willing to have their homes annexed or businesses whose owners had no voice in city government. Business proprietors could protest, but since they did not live on the property they could rarely threaten to vote against the commissioners in the next election.

By the end of 1971, the city's population had reached 5,000. Then came the Overnight Annexation. With complicity from the local newspaper, Newman and the commissioners passed three readings of several annexation ordinances that took effect *without* public knowledge. Probably no more than six people in the city knew that when the 1972 calendar changed from February 27 to February 28, 12,000 more people became Hendersonville residents.

Many of the new city's residents were furious. Some considered themselves residents of Indian Lake or Bluegrass, not Hendersonville. Some people had recently moved from Metro Nashville seeking a country life only to be taken into another city. Some did not want to be under the zoning restrictions of a city or pay the city's property taxes. They protested at city hall and threatened to unseat the commissioners at the next election.

They also came up with an unexpected scheme: throw them all out. Instead of waiting for the 1973 election to have their say, several of the people annexed in early 1972 signed a petition to change the form of government. They advocated replacing all the commissioners with new aldermen who would be elected by district. The city commissioners faced a daunting defensive campaign.

That timeframe proved vital. The commissioners lost the vote in November 1972, the same day that Nixon won reelection. But Newman and the city filed suit because state law required a waiting period of four years for such referendums from the time that a city started operating. Newman claimed that the clock should not have started in

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1968, when the referendum to form a city was passed. It should have started in 1969, when the commissioners were sworn in. They claimed that no referendum to change the form of government should have been allowed until 1973.

The courts agreed. The referendum was premature.

Knowing that residents considered him a beneficiary of a technicality, Newman expected that residents unhappy with him for annexing them were ready to have his head for fighting the referendum. Newman knew that they were eagerly awaiting the end of the four-year waiting period.

Facing the prospect of being removed from office by way of another referendum to change the city's form of government, Newman resigned his position as mayor on June 28, 1973, at a meeting of the city commission. With a do-over referendum scheduled, Newman recognized that many of those voicing disfavor toward the city actually were unhappy with him personally. He decided that the referendum was less about the best form of government for the city than it was about the total removal of those who headed it.

After meeting with friends, Newman decided to resign as a means of calming the resentment that was aimed at him but injuring the city. In announcing his resignation, Newman explained, "I understand that my position as mayor has been a focal point for some of the people in opposition to the planned progress of the community."

He added that his resignation was an effort to unite the community and lauded the accomplishments of the young city. He retained his seat as a commissioner. Vice-mayor Ed Sisco assumed the mayor's position, and Louis Oliver Sr. became vice-mayor.

Under Newman, the city had established comprehensive police and fire service, set up an administration to handle codes and zoning regulation, lighted Gallatin Road through the heaviest-travelled portion, purchased the hundred-plus acres that is now home of Fire Hall #2 and the Freehill Business Park, established citywide garbage service, and procured traffic lights for major intersections.

Newman lost reelection in 1975, finishing behind Ken Woodard and Bill Cole. He ran again in 1981 and 1985, but lost both races.

DuPont Connected To Local Steeplechase And Grasslands' Club

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

William Du Pont, Jr. was among the members of the exclusive Grasslands International Steeplechase Club, which opened in Gallatin in 1929 only to be swallowed up by the Great Depression. He was part of the 1931 Committee on Admissions that tried to save the club.

Du Pont (1896- 1965), the heir to the Du Pont chemical company, was probably the richest of the 20th century Du Ponts. He was a great grandson of E.I. du Pont de Nemours, founder of the chemical company, and was a director of the company.

He was also president and chairman of the board of the Delaware Trust Co. in Wilmington and remained with the bank until his death.

Described as a "tweedy pipe-smoking sportsman," Du Pont had a great interest in thoroughbred horse racing and race courses.

He was the architect of more than 25 racecourses and was well known for his designs and construction of both steeplechase and flat track courses. In the 1930s, he designed the National Cup Course in Fair Hill, Md., on his 5,000 acre estate. In 1941, he designed the Iroquois Steeplechase in Nashville.

Du Pont grew up at Montpelier the historic home of President James Madison, which his parents, William Sr. and Annie Zinn, had bought and expanded. His lifelong love of horses and racing began at Montpelier in his youth.

In keeping with his love of horses, Du Pont also sponsored experiments and research that advanced the science of animal husbandry.

1866 Lawsuit Shows a Need for Coffins

By Shirley Wilson, genealogist

Sumner County's loose court papers, which include lawsuits that date back to the 1780s, often produce detailed and fascinating tidbits relating to historic events. However, quite frequently the papers do not reveal why a lawsuit was filed or the court's decision. Such is the case in the lawsuit, *William C. Youree vs. George M. Allen*, #8620, filed in the Circuit Court of Sumner County in 1866. It appears that Youree sued to recover his losses from the removal of timber from his land.

Relating to the lawsuit, Union Brig. General E. A. Payne gave a deposition on Jan. 4, 1866, at the courthouse at Monmouth, Warren County, Illinois, as a defense witness for George Allen. Payne was General Eleazar Arthur Paine who served in the Union Army. His name was spelled Paine throughout the lawsuit, but on-line resources spell it Payne. The deposition was taken in Illinois, not Sumner County, because Illinois was where Paine lived, according to census records before and after the war. Paine was a lawyer born in Ohio in 1815.

Paine testified that he took command of the military district in Tennessee headquartered in Gallatin on Dec. 12, 1862, and was there until May 1, 1864. Tennessee was under military law. He had jurisdiction over Robertson, Sumner, Macon, Smith, Wilson, Putnam, Jackson, Overton, Fentress, White and Dekalb counties.

Paine further stated that there were nearly 6,000 sick and convalescent soldiers at the post. There was a need for a great amount of timber to be used, principally for making coffins. He stated that George Allen owned a saw mill near Cairo, Tenn., in Sumner County and that he (Paine) had told Allen that he could run the sawmill as Paine directed (for coffins) and be paid. Or, if he refused, Paine would seize the mill and run it himself. Paine testified that Allen thought about it briefly and then agreed to run the mill himself. However, Allen depleted what wood he had on hand in a few weeks.

Paine testified that he had discovered that William Youree owned a heavily timbered tract of land. Paine sent Negroes to Youree's land to cut the timber and bring it to Allen's sawmill. He also sent men to protect the Negroes while they cut the timber for coffins. The timber was then taken to Allen's sawmill. Paine further testified that both Allen and Youree were following his orders.

A man named James Edge gave a deposition supporting Gen. Paine's statement. The Edge deposition was taken at the law office of W. D. Boswell in Lexington, Fayette County, Ky., on June 9, 1866, where Edge was living with his

father. Edge stated that he was almost 19 years of age and acquainted with the defendant, George Allen. He stated that he went to his father's house in Gallatin in October or November 1862 and remained until 1864. He said that Allen had a mill close to his father's property and that Allen sawed lumber for the government under General Paine's orders. Allen ran the mill under compulsion from the government to keep it from being taken from him.

Youree apparently sued Allen in an attempt to recover his losses from the removal of timber from his land simply because there was no one else he COULD sue. If either man had been loyal to the Union, compensation could have been obtained later under the Southern Claims Commission. However, there is nothing to indicate that such a claim was filed.

It isn't really clear why so many men were hospitalized. The Battle of Gallatin took place in August of 1862 and the Battle of Hartsville in December. Both were Confederate victories but casualties were not that heavy. In *Rebellion Revisited*, author Walter Durham stated that both Yankee and Confederate casualties were cared for by the citizens of Gallatin after their battle. History tells us that more soldiers died from disease than did from battle wounds, so perhaps that is the answer.

See WWI, Continued from Page 1

theme, Hendersonville author Judith Morgan will discuss the book about WWI she is writing for the historical society. This will be coffee table book, largely pictorial, with human interest stories. Publication is slated for November 2016. Morgan is the author of *The Lost World of Langley Hall* and *My Name Was Elmwood: a Story of Nashville*.

"This book will feature the dramatic events that happened at home or Sumner Countians who wrote home about the war. It is not a book about battles. We believe eyewitness accounts and keepsakes enable us to better understand the history of the war years and make it relative to people today," said Thomson.

For the meeting, Thomson, Scott Sallee and Allen Haynes of Gallatin will also provide a display of artifacts and photos relative to WWI.

HAWTHORN, Continued from Page 1

out of Hawthorn Hill throughout his life—feeling *at home* there even though it was not his real home.

Hawthorne Hill Comes To Bate Family

Col. Humphrey Bate, born in 1779 in North Carolina and a veteran of the War of 1812, along with his first wife Elizabeth and their two children moved to Hawthorn Hill in the spring of 1817. Col. Bate was apprenticed to a shipbuilder in his youth and was a carpenter by trade.

The brick house, originally built for a man called John Bearden circa 1805, was named after the spring-blooming shrubs. It was surrounded by a 208-acre farm, part of a 1790s North Carolina land grant to a man called Charles Carter. Carter sold the land to Bearden, who built the house, lived in it for a short time, then sold out to Bate.

Elizabeth died three years after coming to Hawthorn Hill. The following year, Bate married Anne. They had nine children.

Among the nine was Eugenia Patience. She, like William, was born in 1826, and like William she became famous. The 2015 book *Historic Sumner County*, reports that in 1842 16-year-old Eugenia married Council Rogers Bass, a wealthy Mississippi planter. By age 23, she owned a large personal fortune, including a 1,570 acre plantation and 67 slaves. After only 13 years of marriage, Eugenia's husband died. She married a second time to Count Giuseppe Bertinatti, the senior-ranking Italian diplomat in Washington, D.C.

"For several years, she traveled between her husband's posts in Washington, Turkey and the Hague, and her Mississippi plantation," according to the book "She also found time to visit with numerous relatives in Sumner County and Nashville. She died in Nashville in 1906 and was memorialized by one of the local newspapers as 'one of the most remarkable women of her day.'"

The Estate Is Passed Down

After Col. Humphrey Bate's death in 1856, Hawthorn Hill passed to his widow, and when she died in 1875 it went to their son, Humphrey. A veteran of the Civil War, he was wounded in Shiloh. He returned home and attended college, receiving a medical degree from the University of Nashville. He practiced at Bledsoe's Lick—today's Castalian Springs.

His son, Humphrey Jr. was born at Hawthorn Hill in 1875. Humphrey Jr. graduated from Vanderbilt University medical school and was a surgeon during the Spanish-American War. Like his

father, he practiced medicine at Bledsoe's Lick. However, he is best remembered as an internationally famous pioneer of country music.

Bate had a country band, "Bate and his Possum Hunters," that started playing at the Grand Ole Opry in 1925 when it began. He was dubbed the "Dean of Grand Ole Opry," and he and his band are credited as its first performers. Bate performed regularly until his death in 1936.



Photo by Rick Hendrix
Hawthorn Hill Plaster and borders were repaired.

The Restoration Changes

The approximately \$400,000 restoration on Hawthorn Hill took place throughout 2015 and included demolition, rebuilding, painting and decoration. "We had to totally demolish and rebuild the east wall of the house. It had collapsed maybe a hundred years ago. It was rebuilt, but badly, and was separating from the main house. It was not structurally sound," said Hendrix. "The house is Flemish bond pattern, and that's the style that we built it back."

When the house was first built in 1805-06, it had only three rooms. In the 1820s, a center hall was added, and the interior of the house was plastered. Walls were decorated with a hand sponged pattern. There were nice bird-and-shell motif and egg-and-dot motif borders."

In the restoration, the plaster and borders were repaired. The old wall stencils—never painted over but deteriorating from age—were painted by an artist to their original state. Matthew Moska of Maryland, one of the foremost authorities on paint analysis, made a complete analysis of paint in the rooms, enabling authentic selections of browns, yellows and blues to be made.

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