

Days Of Old Sumner County

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Sumner County Historical Society

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Recalling Christmases In Sumner

The following story by
George W. Wynne
appeared in *The Sumner
County News* on Dec.
20, 1962.

Our recollections of the Christmases of our childhood and early youth recall many cherished memories of happy experiences which took place around the turn of the century both in our home and in the neighborhood of Castalian Springs and Gallatin.

The period which I shall try to recall especially was about 1895 to 1905, before the years of responsibility began to somewhat dim the glamour of youthful vision.

For some days before Christmas day arrived, the air would seem charged with excitement and anticipation. There was much activity in the kitchen, where our mother and the cook prepared cakes, pies and other dainties in quantity and quality not equaled at any other season of the year.

My younger brother and I were allowed the coveted privilege of scaping the pans and licking the spoons which had been used to mix the sweet cake batter and especially the cake icing of chocolate, caramlate and coconut. If our behavior was good, we sometimes got to taste the milk from the coconuts and eat small

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Mexican War Memorial Is Striking Reminder

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Towering over the tombstones in Gallatin's old City Cemetery is the limestone spire of Sumner County's Mexican War monument, carved with the names of 55 Sumner sons who died of wounds or disease during the 1846-1848 War with Mexico.

The monument itself was erected 170 years ago, and it has been repaired and restored more than once since then. In 1934, *The Tennessean Magazine* story, "Gallatin Restores Monument to Sons Who Died in Mexican War," by Pauline Moncrief reported that the monument had

leaned at a "precarious angle" for several years until it was straightened by "public spirited citizens of Gallatin." Indeed, its tilt was mentioned in 1909 by Jay Guy Cisco, who wrote *Historic Sumner County* that year.

An October 6, 2000, letter by Sumner County Historical Society President Kenneth Thomson in the *Gallatin News Examiner* noted a rededication ceremony in 2000. This event followed repairs made possible by the efforts of Eva Barnes Denning, who campaigned for 20 years to get it done; former SCHS President Joel Ross, Gallatin artist David Wright, a \$10,000 gift from Sam Wyley and an \$11,000 grant from the State of Tennessee. Mexican War descendants who attended were: Denning, Thomson, Henry and David Schell, Dewey Pryor, Jane Hix Thomson, Thomas Boyers, John B. Garrott, Harold Wilmore, Jr., Sherrell Wilmore Taulman, Thomas B. Perkins, Anna Lou Ford Perkins and Margaret Adcock Robertson.

A March 2006 story in the *News Examiner* invited locals, especially descendants, to attend another monument restoration dedication on

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Gallatin: Republican's Rising Star of 19th Century

By Jan Shuxteau, Editor

Editor's Note: The following story is part three in a series about founding father, Albert Gallatin, the U.S. Treasury Secretary for whom Gallatin, Tenn., was named. The events of Albert's life described in this story are documented in a new book, *Jefferson's Treasure How Albert Gallatin Saved the New Nation from Debt*, by lawyer-historian Gregory May. May describes Gallatin's educated youth in Geneva, how he ran away to America in 1780 at age 19 and how his integrity and aptitude for finance and math made him a leader in colonial America. Gallatin was a great patriot, a statesman, a prodigious writer, and he was a formidable adversary.

No one at the end of the 18th century knew more about how formidable Albert Gallatin was than Alexander Hamilton, George Washington's Treasury Secretary. Hamilton's scheme to pay America's debts was debunked and called a "public curse" by Gallatin. Instead, Gallatin—already a well known Republican and public finance visionary—urged the federal government to reduce spending (especially military spending since the Europeans were then busy fighting each other, not the U.S.); to tax land (where the nation's wealth resided); sell more public land to repay debt, and make the executive branch accountable by audits and by creating a standing Ways and Means Committee.

For his efforts, Gallatin was continually insulted and criticized by Hamilton's Federalist allies. Trying to get even with the insulters, Gallatin's partisan father-in-law James Nicholson spread a rumor that Hamilton had acquired British bonds while he headed the Treasury. Hamilton tried to duck the accusation, so Nicholson called him a coward. Hamilton challenged Nicholson to a duel. Gallatin, out of town at the time, learned of the affair from a letter from his wife Hannah. By that time, the would-be duelers' seconds had patched up the quarrel and called off the fight.

None of this made Gallatin popular with George Washington. May wrote that, nevertheless, "President Washington condescended to invite Gallatin for dinner on a cold winter evening about a month before he stepped aside for John Adams. Albert reported to Hannah [who was at her parents' house awaiting the birth of their first child] that he had donned his 'new, or rather my only good coat, my new jacket and my pair of black silk 'inexpressibles' for the occasion." It was the first time he had seen Washington all year, and he thought the President looked 'more than usually grave, cool, and reserved.' Washington's dinners with members of Congress were notoriously solemn affairs—sometimes eaten

almost in silence—and this one was no exception."

At the time Adams took office in 1797, the British and French were fighting. Both seized American ships they thought might aid one side or the other. The French were particularly hostile, meddling in the U.S. presidential election and claiming that a new treaty between American and Britain violated agreements they'd made with America during the Revolution. President Adams feared America would have to fight, and he began building up the military—a step that Gallatin believed would further inflame the French. The Federalists and the Republicans (the minority) sharply disagreed on how to handle the situation. "The abuse hurled at [Congressman] Gallatin on the floor of the House grew much sharper," wrote May. "Gallatin's unusually even disposition helped him weather the storm. He refused to rise to Federalist taunts..."

Gallatin's letters to Hannah at their home in Fayette County, Pa., during this period contain fascinating descriptions of early Washington. Arriving there on a cold and rainy day, Gallatin found lodging with Thomas Jefferson and other leading Republicans in a boardinghouse near the uncompleted Capitol, a situation "far from pleasant or even convenient."

Gallatin wrote that the city consisted of seven or eight boarding houses "one tailor, one shoemaker, one printer, a washing woman, a grocery store, a pamphlet's and stationary shop, a small dry-goods shop, and an oyster house." He noted that the President's house was elegant and that the federal district around it might eventually become a pleasant place.

Time passed, and Gallatin's reputation as an intellect grew. Adams' term ended, and Jefferson—a Republican—became president in 1801. Jefferson quickly nominated Gallatin as Secretary of the Treasury, to the Federalist's unmitigated rage. (Eventually, some haters softened toward Gallatin as he reduced debt.)

The Treasury was by far the largest department of the federal government during the Jefferson administration, and its 1,200 revenue officers—scattered through the country—were the government's largest civilian work force. Also, the Treasury managed public lands, the Mint, harbors and lighthouses, hospitals for sailors and the 900-man postal service. Gallatin and his staff worked out of a brick building that stood on the site of the present Treasury. He earned \$5,000 a year and rented a house on Capitol Hill for himself, Hannah and their two little boys.

By that time, Gallatin had been a state representative, a U.S. Senator and Congressman. His books and speeches in Congress had laid out a financial path for the nation. He was the youngest cabinet member, but no one except the new Secretary of State James Madison had more political experience. It was clear from the beginning that Gallatin—the only leading Republican with substantial expertise in public finance—would enable Jefferson to keep a “wise and frugal” government.

“On most days, Gallatin was hard at work in his office at the Treasury...about a mile and a half from his house on Capitol Hill, and the ride took him 20 minutes...He left home before the rest of the household had breakfast and returned in time for a late dinner...he often worked at home late into the night,” wrote May.

“Gallatin’s physical appearance did not impress anyone,” May continued. “He was growing bald and bit stooped...”

“Gallatin’s thrift became legendary because he slashed federal spending to find the money to repay the national debt...[he] replaced Hamilton’s vague debt repayment plan with a \$7.3 million fixed annual appropriation that took priority over all other federal spending.” He arrived at this figure after estimating federal revenue (\$10.6 million), liquidating various appropriations for principal and interest on the debt and using a bit of algebra. Hamilton, no longer in office, continued loud in his opposition and claimed that Jefferson’s administration would “sink the government” by cutting off the money essential to “its respectability.”

Land Administration, America Grows

During the Jefferson era, settlers pushed west, seeking land to buy. Land administration was among Gallatin’s most complicated tasks. Jefferson and Madison, who had never been West, idealized it as a place of “agrarian citizens who would defend freedom, democracy, and the ascendancy of the Republican party.” Gallatin, who had lived there and started a town, had a more complicated view. He brought to the Cabinet “an instinctive pragmatism” from his own experience, not romanticism.

“What was at stake in the public domain, as Gallatin and other Republicans saw it, was nothing less than who would own the Western country,” wrote May. “Would it be rich speculators and landlords with mobs of tenants? Or would it be settlers working their own lands...The nation’s welfare, Gallatin had told Congress, depended as much on the people’s access to land as it did on

the nation’s political institutions.” Knowing that ordinary people could not afford large tracts, Gallatin proposed cutting their minimum size, and Congress agreed. Land sales took off. “In a report to Congress, Gallatin congratulated himself that the new arrangements had effectively ‘destroyed the monopoly of lands, and [thrown] the land exclusively in the hands of actual settlers,” wrote May. Nevertheless, land sales, which could only begin after surveying the wilderness, remained complicated and contentious. “Gallatin urged Congress to create a separate bureau within the Treasury to supervise public lands, but it was not until 1812 that Congress finally responded by creating the General Land Office,” wrote May.

“The summer of 1803 brought to Washington the electrifying news that American negotiators in Paris had purchased Louisiana from France and extended the American West beyond the Mississippi River. The purchase was an unexpectedly sweeping solution to a problem presented two years earlier when the administration heard that Spain was returning Louisiana to France, its original colonial master...Reports received in Washington said [Napoleon] was sending a large army to America to recover the sugar colony of Saint-Domingue [Haiti] ...and to establish large garrisons on the lower Mississippi,” wrote May. American had earlier tried to buy the area from Napoleon, but he was uninterested until a costly expedition to Saint Domingue failed, and he needed money to continue fighting in Europe.

Gallatin’s problem then became how to pay for Louisiana. “Fifteen million dollars [Napoleon’s price] was an enormous amount of money, especially for an administration that had committed most of its resources to repaying public debt...” wrote May. The upshot was that Gallatin developed new plans to pay off the public debt at a slower pace.

Knowing firsthand the hardships of life in the wilderness, Gallatin urged Congress to develop portions of the new land so settlers could more easily move goods to markets. Private enterprise, he said in a report to the Senate in 1808, did not have the start-up funds to build the great roads and canals that would unleash the nation’s economic potential in the sparsely settled countryside. He proposed improvements that May described as “breathtaking,” including a road from Maine to Georgia and other massive infrastructure that could change the face of America.

More about Albert Gallatin in the next edition of this newsletter.

(CHRISTMAS, Continued from Page 1)

pieces of ungrated coconut which were left over.

About three or four days prior to the big day (or night, I should say), our enthusiasm to go looking for a Christmas tree could no longer be restrained. Our three cousins from Gallatin—Freddie, Helen and Harold Schamberger—sometimes came out to our home at the [Castalian] Springs to be in on the tree cutting and to select one to take home for themselves.

Our grandfather Schamberger, who lived with us, would direct us to sections of the woods, where he had noticed young cedars he thought would please us, and then the expedition would begin.

After some indecision, we would select two trees that seemed right and gleefully bear them home.

The tree trimming was usually delayed until the afternoon of the 24th, but there was much to do in the meantime, such as popping a large amount of corn and “stringing” it to put on the tree. The creative imagination of all members of the family was required to think of new ways to decorate the tree, since “store bought” decorations were not nearly so plentiful or common as they are today.

The men folks of the family being mindful that practically everyone in the rural area was accustomed to observed the period of Dec. 25-Jan 1. as a holiday period of feasting and absence from regular work, busily engaged themselves in cutting and hauling an adequate supply of firewood to last through the period.

Practically all homes in the country at that time were heated by large, open fireplaces burning only wood, which was very much more plentiful then than it is now.

Be mindful that our mode of travel was limited to horse-drawn vehicles: buggies, carriages, wagons and horseback. They were the “horse and buggy days.” There were no motor cars, buses or trucks of any kind, except the steam locomotives which ran on rails, pulling the passenger and freight trains.

So our activities at Christmas time were limited to a much smaller area than we would think of today. Unless we planned to go somewhere by train, about eight to 15 miles was as far as we could go and return home the same day. One round trip between Gallatin and Castalian Springs was all anyone ever planned to make in a day if they did any visiting or shopping at all.

Our home tree celebration was usually held after supper on the 24th. We small fry had a part in decorating the tree sometime during the afternoon. We then placed the presents which we were giving as we so desired. But the presents we were to receive were placed later on by our elders behind closed doors. The suspense was

almost unbearable, and we youngsters had little appetite for supper.

As the time for the unveiling drew near, our parents or other adult guests would slip through the door carrying matches to light the small wax candles. No one had even heard of a string of electric lights at that time.

Finally, the door swing open and our eyes sparkled with glee at the dazzling sight. Soon we were tearing open packages as each was handed his own, and the room was soon strewn with gay wrappings...However, we kids were hard to please. The tree extravaganza by no means dimmed our anticipation of the visit of Old Saint Nick and his reindeer, which were expected during the night. Accordingly, about 10 p.m., we hung our stockings “by the chimney with care” and were put to bed, but not to sleep.

Our parents had wisely held back some gifts from the tree to make good for Santa Claus, and we were awake at daybreak for this second thrill.

The community Christmas tree exercises were usually held at our Methodist Church in the village on the night of Dec. 22 or 23. The service began with a short devotional by the pastor or some church official. Chief feature of which was the reading of the enchanting story of Christ’s birth as recorded in the second chapter of Luke.

Next on the program would come appropriate songs and numerous recitations and dialogues by youthful members of the local Sunday School, and often guests from other churches and communities would participate in the program.

Near the end of this program, some one would step out the front door of the church and promptly return and announce that Santa Claus had been sighted in the distance and was headed our way.

Shortly, the door would open and in would step the jolly old Elf himself with a full pack swung over his shoulders and a “Hi! Ho! everybody! And a Merry Christmas to all!” The reply came in the form of screams, cheers, and in a few cases tears of delight from the younger generation.

After visiting and shaking hands through the congregation for a few minutes, Santa would occupy a seat near the tree (which, by the way, was usually a very large one) and with the assistance of several of the older teen-agers would proceed to pass out the presents.

After the above feature was completed, some two or three minutes was allowed for Santa to say farewell and make his departure for other places where he had urgent engagements.

Nearly a Tragedy

I recall one such occasion when the merriment almost ended in tragedy. As I recall, this must have happened 62 to 65 years ago. Jim

Mitchener, a popular young traveling salesman, consented to double for Santa. The committee on arrangements had no suitable Santa suit to fit him, so he agreed to let a seamstress lightly sew rolls of cotton batting to his best, and probably only, overcoat. Everything had gone along perfectly until Santa reached for a present, and his coat sleeve came in contact with a lit candle.

Only the quick thinking and prompt action of two young men in the front of the audience saved him. They sprang to the rescue, jerked the burning coat from him, and smothered the flames by stomping it on the floor and threw the smoking coat out the window. Needless to say that was one gathering which broke up in confusion. Mr. Mitchener had lost a hand at the wrist years before, and his remaining hand and face were painfully burned, and his overcoat was ruined.

Christmas Rabbit Barbecue

The activity that enlisted the widest interest and attendance was the rabbit barbecue that took place one night during the Christmas holidays at "the Lick." This was the name commonly used to refer to our village years ago, and indeed is still used as an abbreviation for Bledsoe's Lick.

The barbecue was sponsored by the leading merchant of the general store with the cooperation of young hunters who spread over the countryside and brought in 175 to 250 rabbits. Other volunteers dressed the rabbits, procured wood for cooking and dug a long trench 2½ foot wide into which live coals were shoveled from a bonfire. The carcasses were laid on green hickory sticks which were placed across the trench, thus holding the meat about six inches above the coals. The cooking and seasoning was usually done by the Armstrong brothers, Bill, Joe and Jim (Tan), who were masters at outdoor barbecuing. Sometimes a shoat was added to the menu for those who didn't like rabbit meat.

The cooking was timed to be ready to serve inside the store at about 6:30 or 7 p.m. Meat was passed on trays with slices of bread and pickles. This was primarily a men's gathering but occasionally ladies attended, and there were always a lot of "take home" trays passed out!

This barbecue feast was an annual custom for a great number of years, but it was discontinued some 20 years ago [in the 1940s], perhaps on account of the "Rabbit Fever" scare.

Christmas Dinners and Pound Parties

Another custom which was popular, at least in this locality, were the family gatherings for a fabulous noonday feast called "Christmas dinner," whether celebrated on the 25th or any day during the week. These feasts were arranged as nearly as possible so dates would not conflict, so that more guests and relatives could attend.

On such occasions, every art of culinary skill was used to tempt the appetite. Turkey and dressing, boiled country ham, hot biscuits, and all the accessories were served.

I recall on one occasion I attended at least four of these dinners during the week. Tums and Alka-Seltzer had not come into being, but the old Arm & Hammer soda box was a sought-after item.

One other social event I recall was an annual "pound party" attended and promoted daily by the young people living along Hartsville Pike between the Lick and Gallatin. This was held in Kelly Schoolhouse...on the north side of Hwy. 25. This was only a one-room elementary school but its size did not cramp our youthful enthusiasm. We moved desks and arranged them around the wall for seating, leaving the center of the room clear for such games as "Skp-to-My-Lou," "Snap," etc. It was never clear to me just why the name "pound" party, unless it indicated that each person should bring a pound of food. Be that as it may, the result was about the same as our modern day "pot luck" suppers. While the young people frolicked, chaperones and a few young adults who had come to the party hoping they could still stand the pace, arranged a curtain across the rear of the room and spread the supper on tables arranged behind it.

Along about 8:30, the curtains were rolled back, and every one was invited to come forward and help themselves, and, boy!, did we clear the food from those tables. As I recall, our table manners were not what they would have been at the dinner table at home. We disbanded at a not too early hour when our chaperones said lights out. "Good nights" were said, and it was a jolly time.

Remembering the Christmas Season

For the verses with which I close this narrative, I give full credit and thanks to the author, Dr. Alfred Leland Crabb of Nashville, whom we are proud to claim as a personal friend:

*Our eyes grow brighter as we see
Old Christmas days pass in review
While faded scenes gain clarity
And throb with life and love anew.*

*The screen is filled with thim and friends
With tender, ancient hours recast—
How strangely far the view extends
And crowds the present with the past.*

*How precious then is memory:
It guards our lives and friends and ways,
It lifts our past so we can see
The beauty of our Christmas Days.*

Smith Writes to Grandson Away at Military School

The following is from the late Walter Durham's book, *Old Sumner*, that contains excerpts from the letters of Gen. Daniel Smith (October 29, 1748 – June 16, 1818) of Rock Castle. Smith was a surveyor, an American Revolutionary War patriot, and twice a U.S. Senator from Tennessee. Durham, a Gallatin native, was Tennessee's State Historian and a noted author of books and articles about Sumner County.

"The second decade of the 19th century found one of the architects of the Cumberland settlements, General Daniel Smith, retired from public life and living at home at "Rock Castle" [in Hendersonville]. While Smith's health was poor, he corresponded regularly with his grandson Andrew Jackson Donelson at West Point. Andrew was another second-generation Cumberlander. One of his grandfather's melancholy duties was to notify Andrew of the death of his brother, John Donelson, III, who had died in the military service of a fever on the Alabama River. Smith wrote: 'One of the principal cares of my life will now be to try to promote your durable welfare...Some time ago I was in company with your Uncle Jackson, Col. Hayes and others. It was mentioned how clear you was from vicious curses of drinking, gaming, etc...but Col. Hayes thought you would not continue clear of another, which as I did not agree with him...it is worth while to mention.' The opposite sex was not further discussed. Young Andrew's grandfather counseled him to keep up with math each day, to read some law, and to pay attention to music. The letter was concluded with the observation that 'temperance is the best preservation of life.'

"On June 16, 1818, Daniel Smith died at Rock Castle. In one of the last letters written during his fatal illness, he had addressed himself again to his grandson at West Point on March 23. On the day before, his namesake Daniel Smith Donelson, had directed a letter to his brother Andrew, telling him that their grandfather had recently been near death but had lately begun taking hickory ashes with water and felt somewhat improved. Whatever his physical condition may have been, General Smith's mental faculties seemed as coherent as ever as he wrote: 'Throughout your whole life let no temptation draw you away from the strict rules of morality. Those rules are founded in the precepts delivered by the writers of the New Testament, which you have read in the original language.'

After urging his grandson to be industrious in his studies, Smith told Andrew of the impending

marriage of his cousin, Polly Donelson, to a Mr. Mosley from Virginia. 'While his mental talents may be unknown, 'tis said he is wealthy, which as St. Paul says of charity, covers a multitude of sins.'"



Sumner County Flag

County Flags for Sale

Sumner County flags are now on sale by Sumner County Historical Society for \$50 for a 3-foot x 5-foot nylon flag or \$90 for a 3-foot x 5-foot handmade cotton flag. Proceeds will go to the Historical Society. You may clip, complete and mail the order form below with a check to the historical society at the address on the form. The lead time is four to six weeks. You may pick up your flag at Sumner County Archives, 365 N. Belvedere Drive, Gallatin.

Sumner's flag was designed in 1998 by Devereaux Cannon, one of the foremost authorities on flags. It was done at the behest of the historical society and approved by the County Commission. Three stripes represent the fact that Tennessee was the third state to join the Union after the original 13. Sixteen stars indicate that Tennessee was the 16th state. The script is from the 18th century and it, in addition to the stars, encircle the date—1786—when Sumner County was founded.

Sumner County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1871
Gallatin, TN, 37066

SUMNER COUNTY FLAG ORDER FORM

Item	Quantity	Price
3' x 5' nylon flag*	_____	\$55.00
3' x 5' cotton handmade flag**	_____	90.00

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Herschel Ard: Farmer and Missionary

By Albert Dittes

The folks at some churches called him Brother Ard. He taught Sunday School classes, promoted organic gardening and won prizes at the Sumner County Fair. He went to Chestnut Hill as part of a get-acquainted trip to see which enterprise of this type he wanted to affiliate with and wound up spending his life there sharing his version of the gospel with its students and the community.

Herschel J. Ard was born May 6, 1889, in Elsmore Kans. His mother, older brother, and sister joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in his boyhood. His brother urged him to attend an Adventist school after elementary school.

Going 100 miles from home and working for an Adventist farmer through the summer and school year, he was able to attend a junior academy in Thayer, Kans. Earning a scholarship by selling religious books the next three summers enabled him to attend Union College Academy in Lincoln, Neb., for the next four years, starting at age 17.

During his senior year, a Bible teacher encouraged him to read the nine volumes of the Testimonies by Adventist visionary Ellen G. White, which he did in his few spare moments. "This reading gave him the foundation principles of his after life, and this experience deepened his confidence in the Spirit of Prophecy," said his obituary in the March, 1980, *Madison Survey*.

Ard graduated from the academic course at Union College, earning the equivalent of an academy diploma, in May 1910. Hearing Professor (later Dr.) E.A. Sutherland speak at Union College about the needs of the South inspired Ard to go to the school/sanitarium/farm enterprise Sutherland had founded in Madison, Tenn., in 1904. This move led to his life's calling.

In the fall of 1910, Mrs. H.M. Walen of Chestnut Hill, Tenn., went to Sutherland's place looking for someone to help her teach in a growing elementary school. Sutherland recommended Herschel Ard. Mrs. Walen met Ard, described her school and offered him a "richness of experience" as remuneration. Ard thought it over and decided that Chestnut Hill would be a good place to start his proposed tour of the seven "units."

At that time, Mrs. Walen's school was very new. In 1908, she, her husband and another young family--Mr. and Mrs. George Wallace--and their children spent three months in Madison, then decided to start a similar school. They purchased a farm near Oak Grove and named it Chestnut Hill after all the chestnuts on the property. School started with Mrs. Walen teaching five children from the two founding families. Two local children joined before spring of 1909, and more applied. This day school continued for 20 years, then

boarding students were added. During that interval, in 1915, Ard married the Walen daughter, Susan. In addition, a small sanitarium was established.

Ard was known for his gardening and Sunday School teaching. Susan Ard recalled that he visited Bible classes in other churches and offered his services as a substitute teacher. When a \$1 edition of *The Desire of Ages*, a life of Jesus Christ, came out, he took a copy to each Sunday school teacher and offered it for sale.

"Then he would look up all the references in *The Desire of Ages* on the Sunday school lesson for the coming quarter," she said. "He would copy those reading helps, as he called them, and give them to the Sunday School teachers. One young man told him a year or so later that he didn't know how he could teach without those helps."



Herschel Ard was described as a "firm believer in organic farming," and each year his farm showed an abundant harvest of Fredonia grapes, an orchard of fruit trees and honey from the beehives. The Ards earned prizes for their display of canned goods, potatoes and wheat at the 1919 Sumner County Fair.

The May 4, 1927, *Madison Survey* called Ard a "Farmer of faith" as well as a leading spirit in other community work. Ard, himself, said in 1931 that he found "great joy" in his work.

He spent 70 years at Chestnut Hill, serving as elder of the Chestnut Hill SDA Church from its organization in 1925. Always interested in education, he took two courses at Volunteer State Community College at the age of 85. He passed away Feb. 17, 1980, in Highland Hospital after a bad fall and pneumonia. "He was active in the community's Sunday Schools and was a guest teacher many times," stated his obituary. "He loved people and his influence over the several hundred students who passed through Chestnut Hill, as well as in the community and county only eternity can reveal."

S.C. Grand Jury Book 1879-1882, a Case of Murder

Sumner County Archives is transcribing the series of Grand Jury Witness Books dating from 1879 to 1941. The 1879-1882 book, contains witness statements describing illegal activities such as: gambling, drinking on Sunday, and living together without marriage, thievery, assault and murder. The time period following the end of the Civil War reflects the unrest and lawlessness that occurred in Sumner County. Hardships, intoxication, old grudges and lack of available work contributed to the public disorder.

An interesting case brought before the Grand Jury was the State of Tennessee v. Jacob Vance for the murder of John Griffin on June 9, 1882. Beginning on page 153, eyewitnesses describe the scene of the murder.

Tomie Day testified: On the day that Mr. John Griffin was killed, I left town to carry Mary [Polly] Stovall home. When just after Bethpage, we overtook Jake Vance driving a wagon. We went on and met some of her [Mary's] sisters. Then we met her father and another sister. They started to take her out of the buggy, [but] she refused to get out, and we turned back to town.

We came on until we met Mr. Vance. Mr. Vance then got into another hack and started back to town with us. We had come a quarter mile and met Mr. Griffin. Mr. Griffin jumped off the wagon on my buggy wheel and grabbed my horse by the lines and told Mary Stovall to get out. She jumped out. By that time Mr. Vance came walking up, then the girl and Mr. Vance walked off down the road. When Griffin ran and caught the girl told her to stop—she should not go. Then Griffin made the man that was in Griffin's wagon hold my horse. The girl saw a pistol in Griffin's hand and said, I don't want any shooting down here. Then Vance said she should go and Griffin said she should not. Griffin grabbed hold of the girl and Vance shot him. Then they scuffled a while, and Vance shot him again. Then Griffin fell. Then Vance ran off.

I was in my buggy about 10 steps off—it was just about dark. The man with Griffin grabbed Griffin's pistol and ran after Vance. Then I started home and the man who was with Griffin came and took the ladies' things out of my buggy and went back to Griffin, and I came home. I saw the pistol in Griffin's hand before Vance shot him. When Griffin started after Vance, the man with him came up and gave Griffin the pistol. When Vance and the girl walked off down the road, Vance had his hand in his pocket, and Griffin ran down the road to catch them with his pistol in his hand. When he caught up with them he caught hold of the girl with his left hand and had his pistol in his right hand.

Jo Oldham (Col) testified: On the day that Mr. Griffin was shot, I had been to the spring and was coming back. I met Mr. Day's hack with a lady in, and directly they passed me as I had stopped to put a lady out. When I got to Mr. Durham's, I met Mr. Vance, and he got in my hack. Then we drove on until we met Mr. Griffin. At that time, we also caught up with Day's hack again. Mr. Griffin jumped off his wagon and caught Day's horse and stopped him and asked the lady where was she going. She told him she was going back to town. Griffin said you ain't going. She said she was going. Then he said he'd be god damned if she was going back to Gallatin. Then she jumped up and said she was not going to stand there. Then she jumped out of the buggy. At that, Mr. Vance got out of my hack. Vance walked on by her a pace and stoped.

Then Mr. Griffin called to the other man to come and hold his horse. When the man came, he brought him a pistol. When the lady walked to where Mr. Vance was and stopped, then they started towards town. Mr. Griffin ran after them and caught them. He had a pistol in his right hand. He caught hold of the woman with his left hand. Vance and Griffin both had hold of the woman, and Vance said she [should] go, and Griffin said she should not go. The lady told Griffin to put up his pistol. He threw up his pistol to shoot Vance, and Vance pulled out his pistol and shot him. Then Griffin's pistol dropped. Griffin turned around and moved, and when he stopped Vance shot him again. Then Vance broke and ran. Then Griffin walked across the pike and staggered, and the man ran to him and laid him down. Then the man picked up Griffin's pistol and ran down the pike looking for Vance. He then came back and tried to get Griffin to talk, but he did not. Then I started to town. The man ran to my hack and looked in for Vance, but he was not in my hack. He had his pistol cocked. It was about dusk.

Polly J. [Mary] Stovall testified: I was staying at Mr. Loyd's and went home Monday night. John Griffin went home on Tuesday and got his wedding clothes on. Thursday night I left home and came to town to keep from marrying Griffin. Griffin and Bob Cockran came to town on Friday, and Griffin said I had to go back home [that] he intended to kill Jake Vance—he cannot live to see Jim Durham's gate. [He said] I never expect for me and you to marry, but I never expect to be satisfied until I see hell blowed out of him. I told him if he would go home and let Jake Vance alone and go to work I would go home and stay there. He told me if he did not get me he would kill Jake Vance sure.

(See MURDER, Page 9)

(MURDER, Continued from Page 8)

I got in a buggy and started home, and as I passed Vance on the road I stopped and asked him if he had a pistol as Griffin had told me he had one. He said he had. He said yes. I said give it to me, he said all right and gave it to me. I loaded it and put it in my bosom. I then drove on and left Vance. When I got to my sister, she told me that John Griffin had a pistol and ammunition to kill Vance and that Vance could not live the night. I then turned and went back and met Vance and told him to come to me. I said here is your pistol. I told him that Geo Chipman has a writ for you. He asked what for, and I told him I did not know. I told him to get in my buggy and go down to Mr. Loyd and go home.

He then got in a hack, [and] we started on and met John Griffin and Bob Cockran. John Griffin jumped off the wagon and caught hold of my buggy. He told me I had to get out and go back home. I told him I was going to Mr. Loyd's and would come home in the morning. He kept cursing, and I got out of the buggy and went walking down the pike, Griffin following me. I then stopped and told Vance to come and go with me down the pike a piece. He did so, and Bob Cockran jumped off the wagon picked up two rocks and said hit him, god damn him, if you want to. Griffin turned around and went back towards the wagon. I turned my head and saw Griffin come skipping along with a pistol in his hand. When he come up, I told him not to do that and put my hand on his breast. Vance was then behind me. I remained with Griffin, and he said he intended to kill Vance if I lived.

He then looked at Vance and said, Vance I intend to blow your brains out. Vance said, John, old partner, I don't want to hurt you. I don't want to have to do that. Griffin said, Polly ain't going another step. Vance said she should go if she wanted to go. Griffin then threw his pistol up into Vance's face, and it snapped. Vance then shot him over my shoulder. I had my hand on them both at the time. Griffin then grabbed at Vance round me. I squatted and Griffin caught hold of Vance. At that time, I walked off and looked back, and saw Cochran coming with a rock, and then I saw him and Griffin both [take] hold of Vance. Griffin struck Vance with his pistol. I saw Griffin's pistol right in Vance's face. At the same time, I saw the flash of a pistol between them. Then Vance ran and I after him. When I got to Vance I told him to run for [because] Cockran was after him and would kill him. Vance ran, and Cockran [ran] after him, snapping the pistol at him.

Sumner County Circuit Court, June Term 1883 on 13th July, 1883.

Jacob Vance pleads guilty and was sentenced to two weeks in county jail and fined.

Archives Book Sale

Any of the following books can be purchased at Sumner County Archives, 365 N. Belvedere Dr., Gallatin, by writing a check for the purchase price, payable to the Sumner County Historical Society. All books also have a service charge of \$2 to \$4.

A Celebration of Houses by Walter Durham, James Thomas and John Creasy. 1995. Coffee table book with color photos of Sumner historic homes built before 1900. \$25.

By Walter Durham: *Balie Peyton of Tennessee: Nineteenth Century Politics and Thoroughbreds* Peyton was a Sumner lawyer, congressman, diplomat, soldier and thoroughbred horse breeder. \$15; ***Collegiate for this Community***. \$10; ***Daniel Smith*** \$20; ***Grasslands*** This is a history of the Southern Grasslands Hunt and Racing Foundation 1929-1932. Sumner was home to the first private preserve in the United States for fox hunting and steeplechase racing. \$25; ***The Great Leap Westward A History of Sumner County, Tennessee from its beginning to 1805*** \$40; ***Josephus Conn Guild and Rose Mont: Politics and Plantation in Nineteenth Century Tennessee*** \$15; ***The Life of William Trousdale***. \$7 ; ***Old Sumner, a History of Sumner County, Tennessee from 1805 to 1861*** This is a continuation of Sumner's settlement and its contribution to the expansion of the United States. \$45; ***Rebellion Revisited: History of Sumner County, Tennessee From 1861 to 1870*** This is a history of Sumner's occupation by Federal troops in March 1862. \$25.

Land, Slaves and Other Courthouse Transactions, 1808-1863; Abstracts of Sumner County, Tennessee abstracted by Juanita Patton. Abstracts of unpublished and relatively unknown records from Sumner County's bill of sale books. Includes deeds, powers of attorney, estate divisions and administrations, marriage contracts, bonds, as well as bills of sale for slaves and division of slaves. Slaves are listed by given name. Plantation owners and their families are identified. \$25.

The Lost World of Langley Hall by Judith Morgan. The story of Katherine Trousdale and William Allen. \$20.

Moss by James Spivey. A genealogy of the Moss family of Virginia. \$20.

Old Times in Tennessee by Jo C. Guild. Reprint of the 1878 book. \$15.

Sumner County, Tennessee Bond Book 1787-1835 by Shirley Wilson. Xerox copy includes bonds for marriages, estates, land. \$5.

Sumner County, Tennessee Cemetery Records compiled by Margret Snider and Joann Yorgason. 1981, reprinted 2014. \$50.

Sumner County, Tennessee Index to the Loose Records 1786 to 1930 by Shirley Wilson. Published in 1988, this is an important book for anyone working with the county's loose court records. A 1991 errata is included. \$25.

1850 U. S. Census Sumner County, Tennessee transcribed from the original microfilm. Proofreaders added corrections in brackets alongside misspellings and inaccuracies. \$12.

1860 U. S. Census Sumner County, Tennessee. Prepared at the Sumner County Archives using the same format as for the 1870 Census Book. \$12

1870 U. S. Census Sumner County, Tennessee, 2nd edition. \$12.

(WAR, Continued from Page 1)

March 12. At this event, Boy Scout Troop 425 raised the 28-star flag and American Legion Post 17 honor guard gave a rifle salute.

Moncrief's story said: "It will be recalled that after Texas became a state in 1845, that the danger of war grew out of a dispute between Texas and Mexico about a boundary line. Texas claimed that the Rio Grande River was the dividing line, while Mexico contended that the Nueces River was the line. Between these rivers was a strip of disputed territory.

"In the spring of 1846, President [James] Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to take his army into the disputed strip of territory and hold it for Texas. The Mexicans resisted and thus began the Mexican War. According to McGee's History of Tennessee, Gov. Aaron Brown called for 2,600 soldiers and in answer to this call, 30,000 volunteered. Tennessee offered 10 times her quota...

"The Mexican War not only secured Texas for the United States but added what is now California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. The loss of men for the country, during or because of the war, is estimated not less than 25,000..."

"Cisco in '*Historic Sumner County*,' with zeal afire for the prowess of his county, has preserved the complete account of Sumner County's record in the Mexican conflict, which he says appeared in the *Sumner County News*, Oct. 14, 1899, and which was written by the late J.W. Blackmore, one of Gallatin's prominent lawyers."

Blackmore wrote, "Sumner furnished three companies for the War with Mexico, 1846-47. Two of these were in the First Tennessee Regiment Infantry, commanded by W.B. Campbell. These companies were commanded by Captains W. M. Blackmore and Robert A. Bennett, the former being known as the 'Tenth Legion,' and the latter as the 'Polk Guards.' The Tenth Legion was composed of volunteers from Gallatin, and its vicinity, while the Polk Guards was made up from enlistments at Hartsville and that neighborhood. These companies were enlisted for and served 12 months, and there were about 100 men in each company. S.R. Anderson, the lieutenant-colonel of the First Tennessee Regiment, was from Sumner County, as was also Major Richard B. Alexander, and was seriously wounded at Monterey. The third company was known as Legion Second, and was a part of the Third Tennessee Regiment Infantry, commanded by Colonel B. Frank Cheatham. This company was commanded by Captain William Hatton. Major Perrin Solomon of the Third Tennessee Regiment was a Sumner Countian.

Lieutenant Nimrod D. Smith acted as adjutant of the First Tennessee for awhile.

"As it was in the war with Spain, so it was in the War with Mexico, the inhospitable climate was often more destructive to life than the missiles of the enemy, and many a young life succumbed to the ravages of disease.

"The First Tennessee Regiment won distinction and gained the praise of the general commanding the American forces for the valor and dash displayed by its charge on the enemy's defenses at Monterey Sept. 21, 1846. This regiment was brigaded at Monterey with the Mississippi Regiment, known as the Mississippi Rifles, and commanded by Colonel Jefferson Davis in Quitman's Brigade.

"General Zachary Taylor, commanding the army, in his dispatch to Washington in regard to this battle said: "The Fourth Infantry and three regiments of volunteers were ordered to march at once upon the heavy battery, which was pouring a continuous fire from five pieces of cannon. The Mississippi and Tennessee troops, preceded by three companies of the Fourth, advanced against the works, while the Ohio Regiment entered the town to the right. The advance of the Fourth was received by so destructive a charge that one-third of the officers and men were instantly killed, or disabled. They were compelled to retire until reinforced. The Tennessee and Mississippi corps, under General John Anthony Quitman, pushed onward, and with the aid of Captain Blackus, whose men occupied the roof of a house in the rear of the redoubt, captured it in gallant style, taking five pieces of ordinance, a large quantity of ammunition and several Mexican officers and man prisoners.

"In this charge, the First Tennessee suffered heavily in killed and wounded and won for itself the name of the 'Bloody First.' Many Sumner countians gave up their lives in this charge, while others were maimed for life. Here Booker H. Dalton and John F. Ralphfile, of the Polk Guards, and 1st Cpl. Julius C. Elliott, Peter H. Martin, Edward Pryor, Benjamin Soper, Isaac Inman, Elliott and Thomas Jones of the Tenth Legion, were killed and Lieut. J. Cam Allen of that company, lost a leg. History states that there were 120 American soldiers killed in the battle of Monterey. Eight of these were Sumner countians, so out of every 15 killed in that battle, Sumner County mourned one dead son. Out of these three companies, 45 men died of disease contracted in the war with Mexico.

"The First Tennessee Regiment participated also in the investment and siege of Vera Cruz and in the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847, and Samuel W. Lauderdale of the Tenth Legion was killed."

The story of two Sumner County soldiers killed in the Battle of Monterey is particularly poignant. In a *Gallatin News Examiner* story, Aug. 31, 2011, Sarah Kingsbury wrote: "It was Sept. 21 and 1st Cpl. Julius C. Elliott, a 21-year old American soldier and Sumner County native, had been shot down in the street.

"His comrades took him to a nearby vacant house while his commanding officer left to retrieve a means to transport the injured soldier to safety.

"Minutes later, opposing forces were unexpectedly charging down the street. The other soldiers, unable to defend themselves against such numbers, fled.

"But 22-year-old Pvt. Peter Hynes Martin, a close friend of Elliott's, stayed behind. Elliott told him to leave, but Martin, also a Sumner County native, refused to go, choosing to die with his friend.

"When the enemy came he presented his gun and snapped it. It missed fire. They plunged the lance into him and killed him instantly," said Cap. William Blackmore in a letter recounting the details of the soldier's death to Martin's father...

"Blackmore was so impressed by the display of bravery that he had the remains of Elliott and Martin eventually brought back to Gallatin to be buried together at the city cemetery. Such a practice was uncommon in those days, when most fallen soldiers were buried where they fell due to the logistical difficulties of bringing them home."

The First Welcome Home

In his book, *Old Sumner*, State Historian Walter Durham, recounted the *Gallatin Union* newspaper's flowery report of the first public welcome given Sumner's Mexican War veterans when they began to return home. The *Union* wrote: "Thursday, the first of this month [July 1847] was a proud day for Sumner. Her citizens met on that day to welcome home her chosen band of gallant volunteers. Well had they fought—well had they endured the privations of a military campaign, beneath the burning sun of a southern sky. Well and nobly had they sustained the high name of Tennessee, 'the land of Jackson, the volunteer state.' Courage and fortitude, had they exhibited in their bloody battles and toilsome duties.

"And now they had returned home, 'home, sweet home,' was theirs to enjoy. Their tedious marches were over, the campaign was ended, their battles fought and won. Oh! How their hearts must have swelled with pride when contemplating the scene presented to their eyes that day.

"A.H. Edgar, Esq., first addressed them—He recounted to us and them, their battles and exploits, in a most thrilling manner. It was a

subject that was full of attraction for us all' but when aided by his high descriptive powers and bold and manly eloquence, a subject of deep and exciting interest.

"Crenshaw next arose. He followed nearly the course of the first speaker; but in doing this, touched upon incidents omitted by the other. He spoke feelingly of his former schoolmate and intimate friend, S.W. Lauderdale, who after proving himself a valiant and efficient soldier in prior actions fell at Cerro Gordo. While thus he spoke his eyes were suffused with tears, and he fain would have stopped, but he spoke on, mastered feelings unfeigned, and did credit to himself and the occasion.

"Col. S.R. Anderson responded on the part of the volunteers in a short but appropriate address. Having among other things spoken of the change of opinion in regard to the efficacy of volunteers in a hard and well contested battle, it having been proved by the past years campaign, that they are fully equal to regular troops in any emergency; he proposed that the volunteers should rise to their feet and testify their thanks to their fellow citizens for their demonstration of their approval of their conduct, by three hearty cheers. The air was rent by three loud huzzas from this little band; and it was remarked that they could shout as well as fight. Several other speeches followed on the part of the volunteers—and among them, one of America's adopted sons, Adjutant Adolphus Heiman [a Prussian-born American architect and patriot who was responsible for many Nashville buildings], and also one of the deserved favorites of 'the volunteer state,' being called upon, arose and said in his foreign accent that he would speak, although unprepared, but the piercing eyes of the fair misses so bewildered his brain and appalled his heart that he was totally unfit to speak, and that he preferred to face the Mexican lances, than the fair damsels' glances.

"There were other speeches made on the occasion by Blackmore, Kerly and Robertson, of which it is needless to particularize as many of our readers heard them. But suffice it to say, they all proved that they had strong minds as well as hearts.

"The evening, though, after all, seemed to be the crowning hour of the occasion. For near the same fatal corner, 'before the rise of the moon' there assembled, with the complaisant beaux, the beauty and brilliancy of our county 'to whirl in the giddy mazes of the dance.' And we think if our brave friend H. [Adjutant Heiman] had been there—who during the day was so much terrified by the glance of beauty—that his fears would have soon abated and he fain would have yielded to the soothing wooings of the gentle God."

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