

Days Of Old Sumner County

Newsletter No. 3, July 2013
Sumner County Historical Society

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Remembering Our Remarkable Friend, Walter

By Jan Shuxteau, editor

Like the characters about whom he wrote, Sumner County historian Walter Durham, who died on May 24 at age 88, cast a larger-than-life shadow. He will be remembered for both the quality of his work and the kind of man he was.

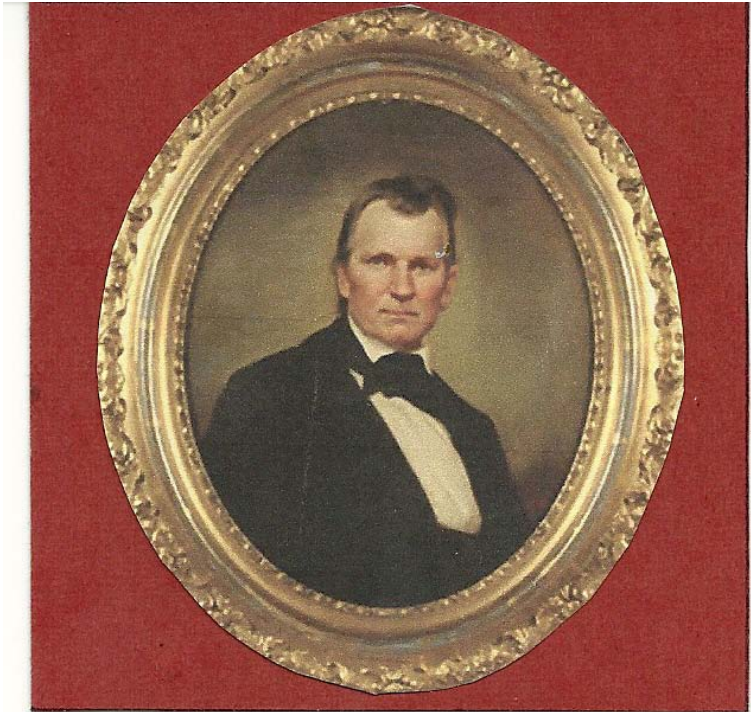
Longtime friend Ken Thomson, president of the Sumner County Historical Society, put it this way: "It isn't just Walter's work that has been a treasure for Sumner County. He, himself, and everything he did for this county was a treasure too."



Walter Durham

Durham wrote 25 books about Sumner County (books that his close friend and fellow historian Bill Puryear of Gallatin says

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Daniel Smith Donelson

Donelson: SC Planter, Politician

By Kenneth Thomson, Jr., president SCHS

Daniel Smith Donelson, whom historians describe as "tall in stature with blue eyes and sandy hair," was the third generation in his family to live in Tennessee and was destined to become a leader among men.

He came from auspicious lineage. Born in 1801, Daniel Donelson was the son of (Mary) Polly Smith and her first husband, Samuel Donelson. Polly was the daughter of Hendersonville's leading citizen, Gen. Daniel Smith of Rock Castle. Samuel Donelson, was the son of Nashville's co-founder Col. John Donelson and the brother of First Lady Rachel Jackson.

After a marriage of nine years, Samuel died in 1804. Three-year-old Daniel and his two older brothers, John Samuel, six, and Andrew, seven, became wards of their uncle, Andrew Jackson. Jackson had promised his brother-in-law on his deathbed that he would care for his young sons, and this Jackson did. (In those days, it was customary for a father to name a guardian for his children even if their mother was alive.)

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In 1806, Andrew and Rachel Jackson invited the young boys to live with them at the Hermitage. Within a few short years, John Samuel died of fever, Andrew went off to West Point and Daniel was attending college at Cumberland. Daniel, 17, left school to be with his aging grandfather, Gen. Daniel Smith, and he was with the old soldier statesman when he drew his last breath on the sixth of June 1818.

Soon after, Daniel was off to West Point to follow in the footsteps of his older brother Andrew. Daniel graduated with honors in 1825 at the age of 24.

Daniel Goes to Washington

When Jackson was elected president, several members of his family followed him to the federal city. We find young Daniel in this group. This was to be a most rewarding and eventful experience for Daniel. He met Margaret Branch, daughter of Jackson's Secretary of the Navy, John Branch. After an exciting courtship, they married on Oct. 19, 1830 and spent a prolonged honeymoon visiting with "Uncle" at the White House.

This was the period of the "Eaton Malaria," a shocking marriage that tore Washington society apart, including the President's own household. Daniel's brother, Andrew, was Jackson's private secretary, and his wife, Emily, was Mistress of the First Household of the Land. Emily and the other ladies of Washington would not accept into their social life the new wife of Sen. John Eaton. He had scandalously married Peggy O'Neal Timberlake, the daughter of a tavern keeper, and she had—as everyone then knew—a very questionable reputation.

Daniel and Margaret moved back to Tennessee, visiting all the family, especially Daniel's grandmother, Sarah Michie Smith, widow of Gen. Daniel Smith. They moved again, this time to Florida, where Daniel pursued the life of a southern planter until poor health soon forced him to return to his native Sumner County.

Due to his keen ability as a businessman, he acquired more than a thousand acres of land—now a portion of the city of Hendersonville. On this estate, he built for his wife the ante-bellum mansion Hazel Path, which stands today.

Much of Daniel's life was spent in and out of politics, but his primary interest was that of being a planter and father to his 11 children.

After an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1834, he became a member of the State House in 1841. He served only one term at that time, but he returned in 1855 and rose to the office of Speaker.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, Daniel left behind his career as Speaker and planter to join the Tennessee militia. In July 1861, Gov. Isham Harris appointed Daniel adjutant-general in the service of the provisional army of the Confederate States. He was placed in command of the 8th and 16th Regiments of the Tennessee Volunteers and the 14th Georgia Regiment.

His first assignment was in Cheat Mountain, Va. From there, he moved his forces to the Charleston, S.C., coast. Here he reported to Gen. Robert E. Lee, who then ordered him to report to Gen. Braxton Bragg. He was in the Kentucky Campaign and in the Battle of Murfreesboro on Dec. 31, 1861.

Over the next two years, Daniel was active in several campaigns. He died of an illness on April 17, 1863, at Montvale Springs in Blount County, Tennessee. Five days after his death—before word came of his demise—Daniel was appointed to the rank of major general by the Confederate Senate. Daniel Donelson is buried in the cemetery of Hendersonville First Presbyterian Church.

(Editor's Note: In future editions of this newsletter, you will see more about the Smith family, Rock Castle residents, Hazel Path and the Bradford-Berry House. If you have story suggestions, please call Jan Shuxteau at 822-1220.)



Rock Castle, 1954

Today's Rock Castle: Changes Through Time

By Melinda Gaines, Executive Board of Directors

One look at Rock Castle and it is clear to see that Daniel Smith built his home for permanence. With thick limestone walls and an elegant interior, he built a home that would last for generations. Indeed, five generations of Smiths owned Rock Castle from 1784, until the State bought it in 1969.

Rock Castle was not without changes, however. The first to "update" the house was grandson Harry Smith in the 1850's. Harry added the front porch and balcony (Rock Castle had been built with just a set of steps leading to the door). He expanded the back porch to the width of the house. He also enclosed the home with a stone and wood fence, the front portion of which remains.

Changes in the 1940s

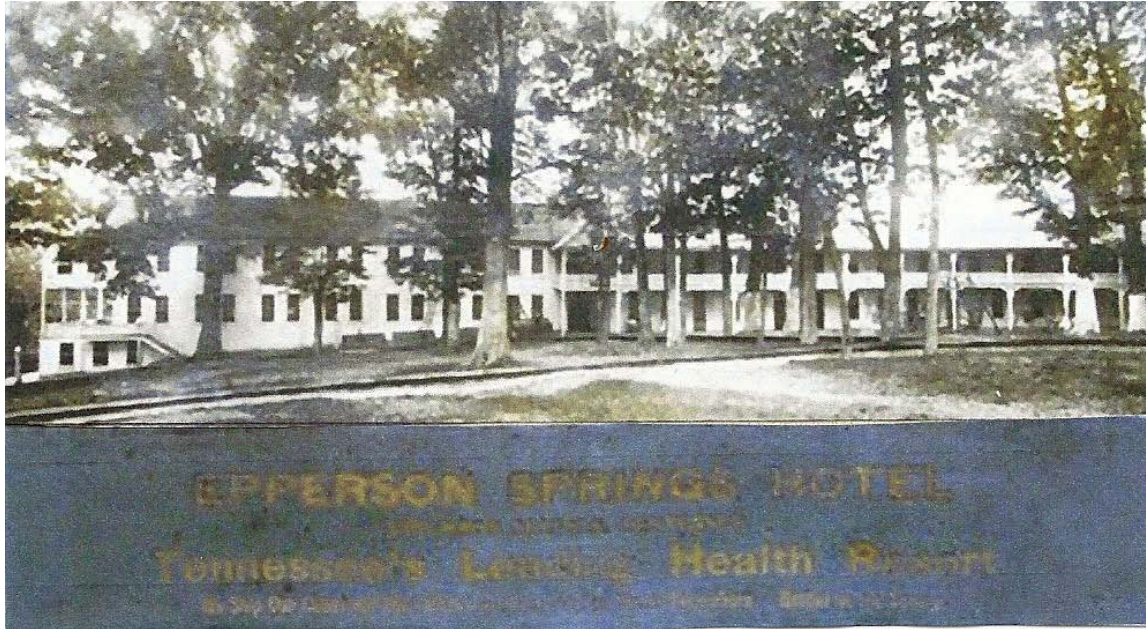
The next major renovation came in the 1940's, under the ownership of great granddaughter Nannie Smith Berry. By this time, the Berry's were living in the larger Hazel Path Mansion (originally the home of cousin Daniel Smith Donelson), and caretakers were living in Rock

Castle. The floors in most of the house were sanded and stained. The original kitchen became the bathroom; concrete was poured over the original rock floor, and a suspended ceiling was hung from the beams. The dining parlor became the new kitchen. In this room only, the floors were spared the sanding. Linoleum covered this floor, leaving it in original condition. The caretakers lived in the original bedroom (Polly's room), leaving the front wing of the house closed off.

The next major change was not to the house, but to the land. When Old Hickory Lake was impounded in the 1950's, much of Rock Castle's land and several outbuildings submerged! In fact, the family built a retaining wall at the edge of the property and back-filled with dirt between the house and the lake to keep the lower levels of Rock Castle from flooding.

The final changes to Rock Castle came in the 1970's when the State oversaw the restoration. The word "restoration" would

(See ROCK CASTLE, Page 9)



Epperson Springs Hotel, Westmoreland

‘A Beautiful Sequestered Hygeia of Nature’

By John Creasy

There can be no doubt each generation has left its mark upon the soils we call home today. If we're lucky, the evidence of past lives continues to flourish among us, perhaps preserved, a usefulness still recognized and respected. Still other places from the past remain, but only a mere shadow of what once they had been—mangled iron, rusted metal, weathered stone--noted by someone knowledgeable as significant but more likely recognized by the pedestrian as *something old*. Such is the case with Epperson Springs Hotel and resort, which flourished for almost 75 years until 1926 but is now reduced to a single, ramshackle clapboard smokehouse and a historic marker.

Near Sumner's northeastern boundary on Westmoreland's eastern flank stood Epperson Springs Hotel. It was located in that spot because of its sulphur waters and dubbed Epperson Springs after an early owner, Ananias Epperson, who recognized the importance of the waters. By 1856, however, Hartsville doctor Archibald McCadden DeBow with a partner named Henry owned the place and advertised the springs in the *Nashville Christian Advocate*, heralding the medicinal effects of the waters so glowingly that readers might surmise they could heal just about anything.

Perhaps they could. They failed, however, to heal what ailed Dr. DeBow. He died of scarlet fever in the spring of 1857. Rumors of infection at the springs spread, and business suffered. A statement appearing in the *Nashville Union and American* sought to dispel such notions, pointing out the doctor had taken ill and died at his home in Hartsville.

The Davis Years Begin

By 1860, James M. Davis was the proprietor of Epperson Springs, overseeing a residential staff of two stage drivers, an innkeeper, barkeeper, clerk, housekeeper, hotel steward, blacksmith and two laborers. In the 1860 census, the value of the real property of the springs was \$40,000. On the eve of the War Between the States, Epperson Springs, by all accounts, was a flourishing enterprise.

The Davis name would remain synonymous with Epperson Springs into the Civil War. The resort proved hospitable to the organization of several combat units. Transformed into a military camp, the springs were known as "Camp Jim Davis" and were a limited training grounds for five companies of the 7th Cavalry Battalion (CSA) and a company of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry Regiment (CSA). As the war went on, Union forces often occupied the springs, and diary accounts from soldiers on both sides reference activity there.

Emerging from the war unscathed, Epperson Springs resumed operations, still under the Davis family. It became a refuge of safety for a sizable number of Gallatin residents during the awful cholera outbreak of 1873. However, within a few days of their arrival, the disease manifested itself there too, killing two refugees according to Gallatin physician H. A. Schell. Proper precautions were taken and no more cases of the disease were reported at Epperson Springs.

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EPPELSON, continued from page 4

Though James M. Davis ran the springs, the property continued to be owned by Dr. DeBow's heirs, namely his son, William. Creditors demanded payments that apparently weren't being made. By court order, the entire property, including the surrounding 420 acres, were sold at auction on June 17, 1876. Sumner County attorney S. F. Wilson, along with silent partner, William R. Rogan, purchased the entire property. Jim Davis remained the proprietor with his son, Stokley, "in charge" according to the *Gallatin Examiner*.

Wilson and Rogan had purchased a business that had become a shadow of its former self. A fire sometime in 1874 had destroyed the more prominent structures leaving a row of connected cottages, not more than 20 rooms with four or five large fireplaces. Guests had to cook their meals in "camping out fashion" according to a newspaper article of the time. The structures housing the various springs still stood, offering the respite sought by patrons.

By the summer of 1877, the Davis family had left to take up farming in nearby Coatestown, the forerunner of Westmoreland, and Eugene Hampton took the reins of Epperson Springs. In 1881, S. F. Wilson sold his stake to William Rogan, leaving Rogan as the sole owner.

Epperson Springs Thrived in the 1890s

Rogan, the scion of an adventurous and colorful Sumner County family, breathed new life into the springs. A two-storied frame structure with a covered veranda and second floor balcony running its entire length was soon built. The completed structure, later referred to as the Old Main Hotel, housed 40 rooms, a large kitchen and dining area, and resembled the Donoho Hotel in Red Boiling Springs, which remains in operation today.

By 1892, Epperson Springs was thriving. The area was served by a railroad, the Chesapeake and Nashville, which opened in 1886 with a line running from Gallatin to Scottsville, Ky. A depot was located less than three miles away in the newly established town of Westmoreland, and patrons of the springs were picked up by hacks there and transported to the hotel. In the same year, it was proclaimed that Mary Matilda "Granny" Faust would be hotel hostess. Faust had established a sterling reputation in the region as a consummate hotel manager, having previously been in charge of the Hygeia Springs and Lower Hotels in Red Boiling Springs, among others in the area.

Prices charged, according to an article in the *Tennessean*, ranged from \$1.25 a day for the cabins to \$25 a month while prices for a stay in the larger, adjoining hotel were, "regulated according to the number occupying a room."

Appearing in the same edition of the *Tennessean* was an advertisement touting the positive effects of the red, black and white sulphur waters. Visitors could also indulge in chalybeate, a mineral water containing salts of iron and

historically used to cure everything from colic to hysteria. William Rogan was not the first owner citing the presence of chalybeate at Epperson Springs. Dr. DeBow, in 1856, had advertised one sulphur well as being, "strongly impregnated with iron."

William Read Rogan continued his enthusiastic promotion of Epperson Springs until a fateful day involving his son in 1899 caused him to reassess his view of the place.

Train Wreck of 1899

On the afternoon of July 22, 1899, John Matthew Rogan, the son of William Rogan, boarded a northbound passenger train at the depot in Rogana, in route to Epperson Springs where he served as postmaster in a post office located there. A few hundred yards north of the circa 1810 Rock House Tavern, the train was crossing a trestle when the structure suddenly collapsed, plunging many of the cars 60 feet into the gulch below. The engine had almost crossed the trestle, meaning the passenger cars dropped first into the crevasse, followed by the tender and engine, causing many of the passengers to be scalded or burned to death. Others were crushed to death.

John Rogan was taken from the wreckage alive but with a broken left leg and severe head injuries. He, like many of the other injured and dead, were transported to the Rock House, which had suddenly become a makeshift hospital. The area's country doctors were summoned and tended the injured as best they could. Horrific burns, internal injuries, head trauma, broken bones and the number of victims necessitated additional medical expertise, and physicians from the southern regions of the county were sent for. They did not arrive at the Rock House until later in the evening.

John Rogan's leg was so shattered and mangled from the injuries that it had to be amputated in an effort to save his life. The effort was in vain, however, for the injuries he sustained in the accident proved fatal, though he lasted for nine agonizing days.

William Rogan scorned his ownership of Epperson Springs after his son's horrendous death in route to the place. By October of 1900, he gave his holdings to his three surviving children: Charles Bernard Rogan, Augusta Brown and Martha Morrison. In turn, they sold the hotel to T. H. and Julia Harris in 1906 for \$6,500. A succession of owners followed until the hotel and its environs caught the attention of Judge George Bancroft Murray in 1909. In time, Murray would do more to stamp his mark on the place than perhaps any other individual short of Ananias Epperson, who named it. Murray's efforts would turn the hotel into a resort, a "beautiful, sequestered hygeia of nature."

(Editor's Note: This is the first of two stories about Epperson Springs Hotel that will be published in the SCHS newsletter. See the October edition for more from author John Creasy.)

Tracing Descendants of Former Slave

By Shirley Wilson, genealogist

In the January 2013 historical society newsletter, Bill Puryear began his continuing story of Fairvue plantation, built from the revenue generated by slave trader Isaac Franklin. An article by Velma Brinkley in that same edition told readers about Hillary W. Key, one of the slaves owned by Isaac Franklin, and she documented Hillary's many, illustrious accomplishments after the Civil War. This is a follow up to those stories.

First, jump ahead from those post Civil War days described in previous newsletters to a beautiful autumn day in 1997. Ellen Wemyss, a widow, lived at Fairvue. "Miss Ellen," as she was known to the many who knew and loved her, has since died. In 1997 she was more than 100 years old and pleased to welcome a group of descendants of Hillary Key, many of whom I had discovered when researching a genealogy of the family. On the day they were scheduled to arrive, Miss Ellen phoned me to say she had to go to a funeral and could not be there to give the visitors a tour of the interior of the home as she had hoped. She asked me to make sure they had a leisurely visit to the grounds and the slave cabins. The sturdy brick slave cabins that remain standing today were of special interest to the Key descendants. The visitors came from all across America, mostly descendants of Dr. Edward William and Fanny (Key) White.

The Genealogy of the Key Family

Hillery Wattwood Key was born on Dec. 18, 1834, almost surely in Sumner County, Tennessee. In 1847 when the slaves of Isaac Franklin were inventoried after his death, the Key family was listed by name, age, and value.

Ben Key	35	\$500
Hanna	35	\$450
Louisa	18	\$550
Lucinda	16	\$20
Hillary	14	\$500
Frances	7	\$200
Luke		5\$200
Jack		2\$100

From this, it can be determined that Hillary had a surname before 1847 and that Benjamin and Hanna Key were his parents. Much of this was confirmed in a Freedman's Bank Record, which names his parents and his siblings: Luke, Jack, Louisa, Ophelia Frances and Emily. In 1870, the first census to list freed slaves by name, Hanna Key lived with the white family of John Franklin in Civil District 6 of Sumner County. A daughter Ophelia, age 22, born after the inventory lived with her. Just four households away, Ben Key lived with the black family of Ruffin Baker, age (Both of their ages were listed as seventy years.

Assuming the ages in the inventory are correct, they would have been in their late fifties. It is interesting to note how many of the slaves in Isaac Franklin's 1847 inventory already had surnames. For example, Ruffin Baker was listed as two years old, the son of John and Betsy Baker, in that slave inventory.

In 1880, Hanna Key, age 65, lived with her son Jack Key, age 36, and his wife Martha in Sumner County. The fate of Ben Key is uncertain, but on 28 November 1874 a black man named Ben Key bought a town lot in Murfreesboro in Rutherford County from W. Y. Elliott, and in 1878 sold the land back to Elliott. One Ben Key was listed in the 1880 mortality schedules of Rutherford County as a black male born in Tennessee who died in February of pneumonia. While the age was wrong, everything else seems right for him to be Hillary's father.

Hillery Key's wife was Martha, born Feb. 7, 1837 in Tennessee. They were probably together as early as 1853 as a later census indicated they were married for 47 years.

The Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863 did not free the slaves in Tennessee, and their status was uncertain. Some were hired at Fairvue plantation at \$8 per month. On Feb. 22, voters in Tennessee (then under Union control) overwhelmingly approved a new state constitution that abolished slavery immediately in the state.

Thus, on March 18, 1865, when Hillery purchased his first land as a free man, he proudly identified himself as F. M. C. (a free man of color) purchasing 1 1/4 acres in Gallatin, from George Love for \$700.

This is astonishingly early for a former slave to purchase land, and where he obtained the money remains a mystery. The Civil War ended in April 1865 and slavery was abolished nationwide by the 13th Amendment in December of that year.

In February of 1866, Hillery Key registered a

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protest with the Freedmen's Bureau when the freedmen still living on Fairvue plantation were "ordered" to leave. A letter from Thomas C. Trimble stated that an attorney told him the home was to be sold and that he only *suggested* that the freedmen should look for other homes, that he would not have issued such an order without first consulting with the Bureau in Nashville. Fairvue plantation was in an attractive setting, on the Cumberland River, and included a number of brick slave cabins that would have been extremely desirable housing for the black families living there.

In 1870 Hillery and Martha lived in Civil District 5 of Sumner County. Hillery was 35 and Martha 33. Hillery's occupation was clergyman, and he owned real estate valued at \$500 and personal property worth \$100. Living with them were five children ranging in age from three to 15: Louisa, Lorenzo, Emily, Moriah and Fanny. Descendants are uncertain as to whether Louisa and Emily were children of Martha's sister or her own.

On 24 January 1874, the family was living in Macon County. In 1880, Hillery and Martha lived in Murfreesboro. He was listed as 45 years of age, a minister. Living with them were their daughters Moriah, age 15, and Fannie, age 13, who were both in school.

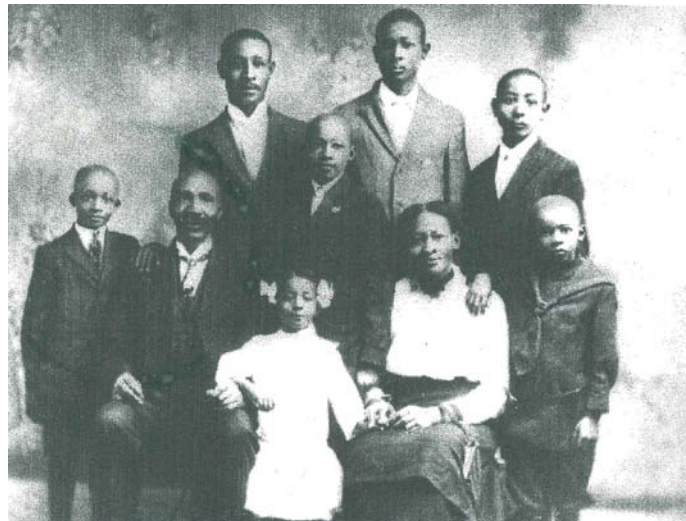
In the 1900 census, Hillery and Martha were living in Tipton County, Tennessee. Hillery was listed as 65 and Martha as 63. Martha indicated she had given birth to six children but that only three were still living. Both Hillery and Martha were listed as born in Tennessee of parents born in Virginia. They owned a farm, free and clear, and Hillery listed his occupation as "preacher."

Martha died July 2, 1902, and is buried in Mason, Tipton County.

However, Hillery married a second time on Aug. 6, 1903, in Wilson County, to Emily Jane Ballard. Hillery W. Key, residing at 53 Maple Street, Nashville, Tenn, wrote his will on Dec. 21, 1904, naming his wife Emily Jane. He died on July 14, 1912, and is buried near Martha.

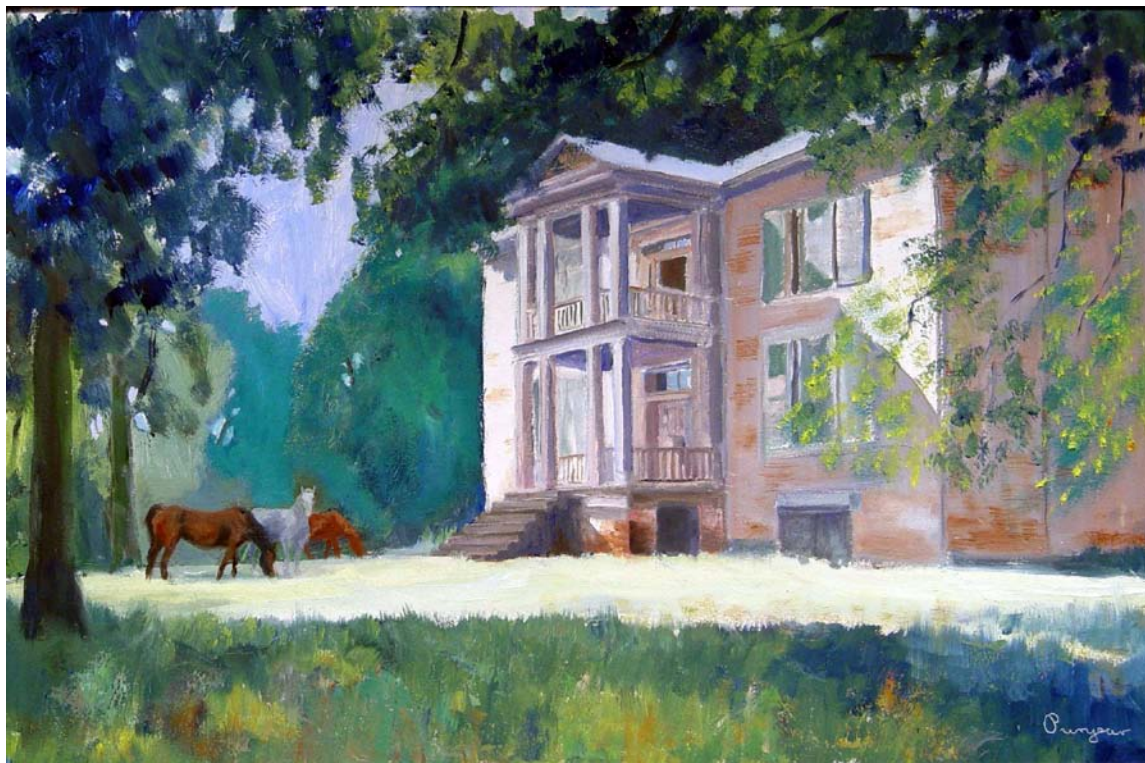
Hillery and Martha's three surviving children were: Lorenzo Dow Key, born Jan. 18, 1857 (married America Davenport Gray); Moriah Key, born about 1865 (married Dr. Daniel W. Fields); and Fanny Key born about 1867 (married Dr. Edward William White). The two girls became schoolteachers and Lorenzo became a physician.

This story contained a full page of footnotes that would not fit in the space. For a footnoted copy, send a message to Shirley Wilson at swilsontn@aol.com .



Dr. Edward William and Fanny (Key) White Family
Photo taken about 1915-1918, provided courtesy Marion White

Left to right (seated) Dr. Edward W. White, Faye Alberta White, Fanny A. B. Key White
Left to right (standing) Leon, Irwin, Lorenzo, Hubbard, Inman and Theodore



This is a painting of Kennesaw by artist-writer Bill Puryear. Located on Nashville Pike across from the entrance to Fairvue, Kennesaw was the racehorse breeding farm that inspired Charles Reed to buy Fairvue after the Civil War. Fairvue was in ruins at the time Reed bought it.

The Reed Years: Fairvue's Return to Glory

By Bill Puryear

After the Civil War, the South lay devastated, with slaves gone, fields untended and Fairvue, like mythic Tara, an empty shell, its glory gone with the wind.

Anyone who then predicted that this ruined plantation would again attract wealthy

owners and admirers from as far away as New York, London, and Europe would have been thought crazy. Yet the next century brought to it titans of industry, royalty, and the international champions of the sport to

(See REED, Page 9)



Ann Jane and Charles Reed, about 1873



REED, Continued from Page 8

which she was best suited, the breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses.

In 1882, Adelia Franklin sold Fairvue to Charles Reed. Virtually everybody acquainted with the American turf heard of the New Yorker who paid \$100,000 for St. Baise, the winner of the English Derby. This was the record for a racehorse, equivalent to several millions of dollars today. By comparison, for Fairvue and its 2,000 acres he paid only \$50,000.

Reed was a self-made man in every respect, accustomed to getting his way. As a teenager, he ran away from home, panned gold in California, ran the blockade for the South during the War, married an Irish lady in England, and became a major gambling house operator in New Orleans, New York and Saratoga, where he knew the leaders of sport, finance, and the theatre, and owned and bred champion racehorses. At 55, he was described as good-looking, strongly built, brusque and domineering. His clientele at his New York gambling house included Theodore Roosevelt, August Belmont, Lillian Russell, Buffalo Bill and Sarah Bernhardt.

At Saratoga he first met Isaac Franklin's nephew, Captain James Franklin, who bred thoroughbred racehorses at Kennesaw, across the pike from Fairvue.

Impressed by the superiority of the Tennessee-bred horses, Reed bought two yearlings at W.G.Harding's sale at Belle Meade in April of 1882.

In September of that year, he bought Fairvue, settling the difference between the \$50,000 bid and the \$60,000 asked by the flip of a coin. Reed planned to raze the crumbling plantation house with a home in the style of the day with turrets and gingerbread, but his wife, Anne Jane, talked him out of it. Instead, he spent \$200,000 in fitting Fairvue as a home and horse breeding establishment.

(Sources include Margaret Lindsey Warner's *The Saga of Fairvue*, as well as the stories and personal recollections of Ellen Stokes Wemyss. She was the mistress of Fairvue for 63 years from 1939 through 2002.)

ROCK CASTLE, Continued from Page 3

simply imply that an attempt was made to return it to its original condition, but this was not the case. Several changes were made that made Rock Castle less like the home Daniel Smith built.

The loft area above the dining parlor was originally built with dormer windows, so that the room would have light and ventilation. These were removed and burned during the restoration. The limestone hearths were removed and replaced with brick. The foyer, upstairs and downstairs had its original black walnut paneling, in good condition, when the State took ownership. It was painted light green during their work.

Rock Castle is known for the beautiful faux graining in Daniel Smith's study, which, though not original, does date back to Daniel Smith's ownership. This graining was also throughout the house on all interior doors. The State wanted all faux graining removed or painted over. At the objections of the founders of Friends of Rock Castle, lead by great great granddaughter Sarah Berry, the State agreed to leave the graining in the study only, removing it in the rest of the house.



This picture taken in the 1980s shows barges headed downriver

Cumberland Winds Throughout Sumner's History

By Randy Tatum

The Cumberland River has a unique place in the history and development of Sumner County and Middle Tennessee as many of the first settlers came to this area on its waters. The Cumberland winds its way through Sumner County connecting the people living here with their neighbors.

Documentation of how the river was navigated and crossed is important in researching how this area was settled and how its early residents lived. While navigation up and down the Cumberland today is done through a series of locks and dams, for the early settlers access across the river was not so easy.

It was accomplished first by wading or swimming, and later by ferries powered by horses or mules and then by wooden bridges. This is why maps of the river *before* the lakes we know today are so valuable. They help us understand the river as our forefathers knew it.

Archives Displays Old River Map

Part of Sumner County Archives' mission is to preserve and house documents recording the history of the county and its people. To trace the role of the Cumberland, maps providing a graphic representation of the river before impoundment of the various lakes along the river were obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With the property acquisition maps of Old Hickory Lake (a 1930 topographic map of the river), the Archives staff created a 12-foot long map of the

river from the Nine Mile Ferry site in Pennington Bend in Davidson County to Dixon Springs in Smith County.

See Ferry Sites, Ponds, Bridges

On this map are shown the sites of old ferry crossings and the one bridge across the Cumberland in existence at that time in Old Hickory. The Cordell Hull bridge in Carthage was not built until 1936 and bridges at Highways 109, 241 and 141 were not in place until much later.

Other features of the 12-foot river map include: the ferries in existence in 1930, horse crossings, the old lakes and ponds that were taken over by Old Hickory Lake and views of how the creeks flowed into the river.

For those looking to find where their Sumner County ancestors lived, the Old Hickory property acquisitions maps will also show what land was taken for the impoundment of the lake, who owned the property and how many acres were purchased from each property owner. It even shows the shape and location of the property in relation to the River.

(Editor's Note: Sumner County's history cannot be separated from the history of the Cumberland, and the map now available for viewing at the Archives provides insight into the important role the river had on this county, its people and our history.)

Walter, Continued from Page 1

will be read for the next 200 years) and a mountain of historical articles. He was, in fact, preparing a story for this publication only a week or so before the heart attack that led to his death. His mind was clear; he was very chipper. I joked that I wouldn't ever be able to come up with a topic he hadn't written about sometime. I could hear the smile in his voice when he replied, "Well, I've been at it awhile..."

Background of his Life

Durham was a Gallatin native, the son of Frank and Celeste McAlister Durham and grandson of former State Senator J.T. Durham. He was born on Oct. 7, 1924, which made him about 19 when he joined the U.S. Air Force. He fought in WW II from 1943 to 1946 in North Africa and Italy.

Durham attended the University of Wisconsin and Vanderbilt University, where he received both B.A. and M.A. degrees. In 1948, he founded Gallatin Aluminum Products Co. and became a partner in Durham Building Supply.

He was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church in Gallatin, a leader who also served as the Chairman of the Board of the Trustees for the Tennessee Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1984-1992.

Described recently by the *Gallatin News Examiner* as a "walking encyclopedia of Tennessee and Sumner County history, Durham was named state historian in 2002 by former Gov. Don Sundquist. He had already founded the Tennessee Preservation Trust (first called the Tennessee Heritage Association), chaired the Tennessee Historical Commission and been president of the Tennessee Historical Society.

"Walter Durham was a man who loved Tennessee, and he loved Sumner County," says Mark Bastain, vice president of the Sumner County Historical Society."

His books ran the gamut of local history from his first work, *The Great Leap Westward, A History of Sumner County, Tennessee, From Its Beginnings to 1805*, to his final book, *Grasslands*, about the fantastic riding and racing establishment built by the Grasslands Hunt and Racing Foundation between Gallatin and Hendersonville.

Assisting him in his work was Glenda Milliken, who was his assistant for more than 50 years, starting when he hired her as his secretary at Gallatin Aluminum Products. She recalls that the two of them poured over hundreds of archive documents, old newspapers and books, researching his stories. "He was a great writer," she says. "We would go to the archives and dig. He was meticulous in his research."

Durham did not make a lot of money from his books. He donated most (if not all) of the proceeds to the Sumner County Library Board, which published his book, and other historical organizations. Future editions of this newsletter will feature his books and research.

Durham is survived by his wife of 64 years, Anna Armstrong Coile Durham; and four children, Elizabeth D. Lindsey of Bufluffton, S.C.; James Durham, Robert C. Durham and Anna Durham, all of Nashville; four grandchildren; and his sister, Anne D. Bragg of Albany, Ga.

His family asks that any memorial donations be made to the Sumner County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1871, Gallatin, TN 37066.

New Members Always Welcomed by the Sumner County Historical Society

To join the Sumner County Historical Society and receive a copy of this newsletter, please send your name, address, e-mail address and a check for \$25 per family or \$10 for a student to:

Sumner County Historical Society

P.O. Box 1871

Gallatin, TN 37066

Officers of the Sumner County Historical Society are: Ken Thomson, president; Mark Bastian, vice president; Juanita Frazor, treasurer; Bonnie Martin, secretary. Board members are: Sallie Wade Brown, Teresa Deere, Tim Nixon, Vicki Comer, Jan Shuxteau, Shirley Wilson, Carol Cobb, Rebecca Lunsford, Velma Brinkley, Jack Master, Bill Puryear and Jane Wright.

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