

Days Of Old Sumner County

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Remarkable Emily Peyton: Secret Foreign Secretary

By Ken Thomson, President
SC Historical Society

Emily Turner Peyton, nicknamed Em by her friends, a leader in the Sumner County social scene in the mid to late 19th century, had the distinction of being the first woman in foreign service to be paid by the United States government.

Em was born on April 8, 1831, the eldest child of Bailie Peyton and Anne Alexander Smith Peyton, of Gallatin. She had a brother, Bailie, Jr. and a sister, Nan.



From the collection of Ken Thomson, this picture of Emily Turner Peyton was made from an 1850 daguerreotype

Her dad, Bailie Peyton, Sr. (b. 1803, d. 1878), was a noted attorney and colorful political figure, who was no doubt the center of his family's life. At the age of 29, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives,

(See EMILY, Page 6)



Woods Ferry 1930

The Age of Sumner County Ferries

By Bonnie Martin, Sumner County Archivist

As settlers poured into middle Tennessee, it was obvious that the inconvenience of crossing the Cumberland River hindered and divided settlement expansion on both sides of the river. In the early days, settlers poled flat rafts across the river but currents and overloaded cargo made the crossing risky and lives were lost. Dependable ferry service was needed.

Sumner County Court of Pleas, recognizing that ferry service could be a source of county revenue and expanded markets, began granting and regulating operation of ferry services. The 1791 Court of Pleas granted Isaac Pierce Jr. permission to operate a ferry on the former land of James Esspy, and also granted Captain S. Williams ferry operation on first bluff on the Cumberland above salt lick.

In 1801, the Court of Pleas set the cost of ferry service at:

Man and horse, \$3.25 cents per head

Man or horse alone, 3.125 cents

Cattle and other livestock, 3.25 cents per head

Loaded wagon and team, \$1.00

Empty wagon and team, 75 cents

Four wheel carriage, \$1.00.

Two wheel carriage or Ox cart, 50 cents

A person on foot was rowed across by canoe for five cents

Through the years, other known ferries operated between Wilson and Sumner Counties. These were: Everettes, Bentley, Cairo, Cage, Dillard, Bishop, Sullivan, Wright and Hunters Point. The 1836 Sumner County map lists: Kirkpatrick Ferry, Woods Ferry, Coles Ferry, Belote Ferry, Tapleys Ferry, and Harts Ferry. By 1878, Sumner County at the peak of ferry service had eight ferries in service: Walton Ferry, Sanders Ferry, Benders Ferry, Woods Ferry, Coles (Brown) Ferry, Williamsons (Kirkpatrick) Ferry, Belotes Ferry and Canoe Branch Ferry.

Ferries were crude structures, flat bottomed with side rails, little more than a raft. The landing was often a steep muddy bank. Methods of operating ferries varied. Woods Ferry operated on a simple method

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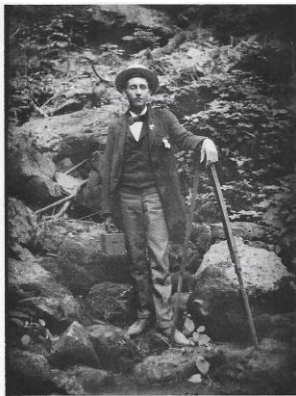
Unknown family portrait photographed by Charles and William Hinton sometime in the late 1800s

Hinton Glass Plate Negatives Show Life in Old Sumner

By Bonnie Martin, Sumner County Archivist

Sumner County Archives is exhibiting a series of glass plate negatives believed to have been photographed in Kentucky and northern Sumner County.

The negatives were discovered in the Hinton residence in Mitchellville, TN. It is believed the photographers were Brothers Charles Effy Hinton, 1876-1960, and William Ivy Hinton, 1879-1952. Charles is listed in the 1900 Sturgis, Kentucky census as a boarder, his occupation a photographer. William was also a boarder and farm laborer in 1900 Sturgis, Kentucky.



A paper scrap among the negatives offered a clue to the photographer's identity. It read: "don't ask for credit, satisfaction guaranteed, Hinton Bros, Sullivan, KY."

Hinton photographs are of families and homes. They capture glimpses of rural life at the turn of

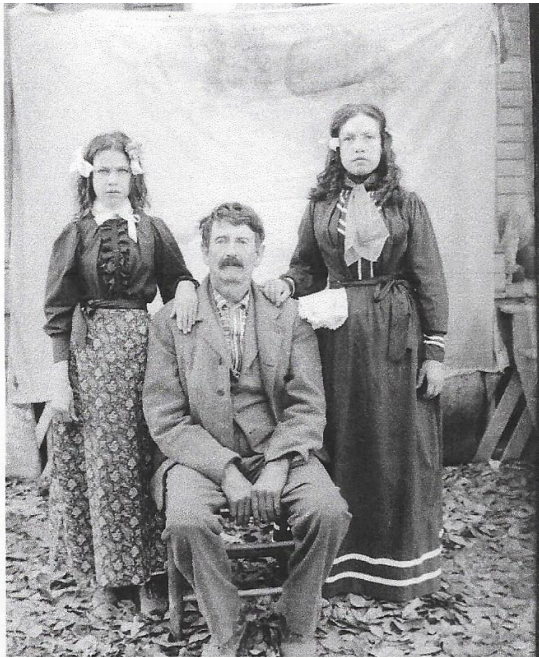
the century. Many depict a "studio" of a blanket or quilt backdrop and the porch as the setting. Hinton photographs portray people dressed in both their Sunday best and work clothes.

Hinton photographed rural homes that appear humble by today's standards. Although homes of that era were often small, traditionally generations of families shared the house. Hinton photos typify 1900's family gatherings of all ages from infants to grandparents.

Hinton Brothers photos are not polished studio portraits as compared to the Stark Photograph Collection preserved at Sumner County Archives. Hinton Brothers photographs reflect life in the rural South, people with rough hands, worn shoes, threadbare clothing. Individuals and family groups wear serious expressions. Children are solemn and lean close to their parents' sides. Faces stare back at the camera with little emotion, yet their dignified gazes and erect manners convey fulfilled, industrious lives.

Photography was not always a profitable endeavor, and the brothers closed their photography business. By 1910, the Hinton brothers had returned to Sumner County, were

(See HINTON, Page 3)



Hinton photographs of other unknown family groups

(HINTON, Continued from Page 2)

married and working in other occupations. Charles Hinton married Jessie Escue in 1910, and together they raised two sons, Rhea and William. In the 1910 census, he is reported to have been employed by a sawmill. In the 1920 and 1930 censuses, he was a jewelry salesman. In October 1937, Jessie Hinton passed away, and Charles moved to Pima, Ariz., where he lived until his death in 1960.

William Hinton married Lena Canida in 1902 and fathered five children: Gladys, William, Nobie, Gordon and Gaines. William remained in Sumner County and farmed for the remainder of his life. William passed away in 1952 and is buried with Lena in Mitchellville, Tenn.

Note: Hinton photographs were donated by the Hinton Family and Allen Haynes to Sumner County Archives. Information obtained from United States Census, Hinton Family, Find a Grave and Ancestry.



Kennesaw: Once a Race Horse Destination

From a story by Thomas Richey, Jr.
Gallatin Historic District Commission

Kennesaw Blood Stock Farm, now a residential/commercial development on Nashville Pike on the western outskirts of Gallatin, was once among the best known venues in the nation for race horse breeding—along with nearby Fairvue and Foxland/Belmont estates. Among the fascinating details of Kennesaw's storied past is that it was lost and won on a riverboat gambol.

For most of the 19th century, Tennessee, not Kentucky, was the center of horse breeding and horse racing in the U.S., with Sumner County supplying the major share of southern race horses. Why Sumner County? Historian Ridley Wills II in *The Eclipse of the Tennessee Horse Industry in Tennessee*, noted that immigrants pouring west in the 1790s often settled in the bluegrass regions of Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. "Both regions were blessed with an abundance of limestone, phosphate, and water," Wills wrote, "Although both regions were ideal for the breeding of thoroughbreds, the middle Tennessee basin had an edge due to its slightly warmer climate, which gave the colts a longer grazing period in the fall, a less severe winter, and earlier grasses in the spring." The fertility of the Station Camp Creek area and its rolling hills made it an ideal setting for the early horse breeders and the residences they built.

Jackson's Horse in First Race

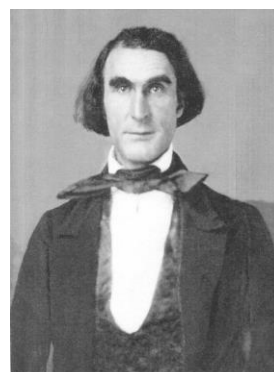
The first official horse race was run in Gallatin in 1804. Andrew and Rachel Jackson attended, and Jackson's horse Indian Queen ran against Dr. R. D. Barry's Polly Medley. Jackson's passions were racing and wagering—even when they didn't go well. Jackson's horse lost the race, but it provided him the reputation of a serious horse breeder and racer in the area. From this time forward, public races were held in Gallatin almost every year until the Civil War in 1861; they resumed quickly in 1864 due to local interest.

Though Kennesaw was not built until almost 50 years after this auspicious beginning of Sumner County horse races, it had an important role in spotlighting the sport. Kennesaw's history began in 1829 when Thomas Anderson Baber, 33, having moved to Gallatin from Virginia two years earlier with his wife, Lucy Ann Trevelian and children, began building an estate with the purchase of 204 acres from John Peyton, Sr. (John was the father of Balie Peyton, well-known attorney, congressman, politician and horse breeder and racer.)

In 1830, Baber purchased another 350 acres for \$4,725 from Sion Hunt. When Baber died at age 48 in 1844, he left an estate of 991 acres, which was divided among his widow and three children.

Kennesaw Won on a Gamble

Sometime around 1850, Washington Lafayette Baber, Thomas' son, built Kennesaw mansion on family property. Little is known about Washington's days on the farm—they didn't last



long. Local legend has it that in 1857 Albert C. Franklin (pictured at left) won Kennesaw from Washington Baber in a poker game while they were gambling on a riverboat on the way to New Orleans. The actual recorded deed covering the transfer of ownership shows the cash that changed hands -

perhaps the amount of the gambling debt - was \$17,520 for the 272 acres and appurtenances.

Albert C. was the woods colt son of Elizabeth B. and James Franklin, one of the "Immortal 70" who settled Middle Tennessee in 1780. He was the half brother of Isaac Franklin, owner of Fairvue Plantation, just down the road.

During the 25-plus year period before the Civil War, gambling flourished in the towns along the Mississippi River. It was also essential entertainment on virtually every riverboat. Gambling was, in fact, considered a profession, as legitimate as the practice of law or medicine. (Nevertheless, it seems odd that these two neighbors were betting against one another in a high stakes poker game on a riverboat far from home.) Once he had Kennesaw, Albert C. bought his first race horse and began directing the farm's efforts at thoroughbred breeding. He filled the house with elegant furnishings.

He also set about adding more land to his estate, accumulating more than 1,300 acres in the local area between 1838 and 1867. His holdings were only slightly smaller in size than the 1,972 acres of Fairvue Plantation when it was purchased by Charles Reed in 1882.

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After Albert's death in 1867, his eldest son Capt. James Franklin (*pictured below as a child*) continued to develop Kennesaw into a world class stud farm. Capt. Franklin was a Civil War veteran. He enlisted in the confederate Army in 1861 in Capt.



Clinton Douglass' company, Col. Hutton's Seventh Tennessee regiment. He was wounded severely in the arm in the battle at Seven Pines, Va. He was promoted to captain in 1862 and was wounded again, this time in the foot. He was so badly hurt that he remained

lame for life. Nevertheless, he fought until the end of the war. Returning home, he married a Miss Bettie P. Humphreys of Mississippi. They had a daughter, who eventually married Edgar Reed, and a son, Harry, who eventually inherited Kennesaw.

Capt. Franklin was described as "a tall, vigorous, handsome man of a very stately, but modest bearing in his intercourse with all. United with these characteristics was an iron will and inflexible firmness when he had made up his mind upon any given course of action."

Capt. Franklin grew his inheritance into a world class operation, and he was widely renowned as a horse racing steward and turf man. A notice in the May 4, 1889 *Gallatin Examiner* bears this out. It says: "Captain Franklin of Kennesaw and Mr. Shafer of Peytona [the Bailie Peyton place] have decided to sell their yearlings in Chicago, and as this is the first time that breeders of this section have ever offered their colts in that city it is very difficult to estimate the sales, but they should go for high prices as they are a grand lot. The day selected to sell them is June 21—the day before the American Derby is run. Messrs Bence & Kidd have the consignments, and upon that day we may expect to see the blue-blooded sons and daughters of some of Sumner County's most noted sires and dams go for prices that have long since made the breeding of thoroughbred horses in this county a profitable business."

Capt. Franklin traveled to many racetracks in the northeast U.S., including Saratoga, where he met and befriended Charles Reed. Reed was already interested in Tennessee-bred thoroughbreds and had purchased two horses from W. G. Harding of Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville. Reed's friendship with Franklin and his favorable impression of Kennesaw and the Station Camp

Creek area led him to purchase Fairvue Plantation.

The Most Famous Horses

All of the Franklin men were renowned for their breeding program, led by their premier sire "Glengarry" and enhanced by a select group of broodmares. Kennesaw-bred horses sold for some of the highest prices of their day and achieved great success on the racetrack. A few of the notable champions bred by the Franklins were: Kentucky Derby winner "Kingman" (Breeder: Albert C. Franklin), Racing Hall of Fame inductee Luke Blackburn (Breeder: Capt. James Franklin), and the Belmont Stakes winner "George Kinney" (Breeder: Capt. James Franklin).

More About the Mansion

Kennesaw mansion (*pictured below from the book *Historic Sumner County**), the centerpiece of the farm, was originally built in the Federalist style, but its owners over the years dressed it up with artistic elements, such as its two-story Greek Revival entrance and portico. The mansion also underwent extensive renovation over time, and is, thus, ineligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.



The glory days of Kennesaw in thoroughbred horse breeding extended into the early 1900s though Capt. Franklin, himself, died in Sept. 4, 1891. His obituary reported that he was taken "very ill a few weeks ago in Chicago, where he had gone to see to a public sale of his fine colts. He was brought home [to Kennesaw] a week or so ago in a very precarious condition, and it was only a question of time when he would die."

The farm was sold in 1913 and, thereafter, a period of 50 years of thoroughbred breeding ensued under James Wellington and Isaac Calvert McMahan. Hundreds of horses sired by Kennesaw stallions subsequently ran on many American and European race tracks.

Note: The photos of Albert C. and Captain James Franklin are from the Ken Thomson collection.

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where he served from March 1833 - March 1837, changing from a Jacksonian to a Whig when he ran for his second term. His political star continued to rise after he left Congress. "During the mid-1840s, Peyton was frequently mentioned for cabinet-level appointments. Jacksonians expected he would be appointed U.S. attorney general by President Tyler; others regarded him as fit for various high-level offices. The offer that materialized was for secretary of war, and he declined it," wrote the late State Historian Walter Durham.

In 1837 with his two terms in Congress complete, Peyton moved his young family—Em would have been six and her siblings even younger—to New Orleans, where he practiced law and participated in Whig politics. Durham reported, "He worked vigorously on William Henry Harrison's successful campaign for president in 1840. When Harrison died four weeks after his inauguration, President John Tyler appointed Peyton to a four-year term as U.S. attorney general for the Eastern District of Louisiana."

Though working and living in Washington and then New Orleans, Bailie Peyton and his family considered Gallatin their home. Their Station Camp Creek farm became nationally known for breeding fine racehorses. (One horse was named after Em.) Many famous people visited, including Andrew Jackson. Its prestige rose even higher when Peyton established the Peyton Stake race in 1843 in Nashville. The race drew international acclaim because the purse was the largest (\$35,000) that had ever been offered in America or Europe.

Idyllic Life Comes to an End

Little Em was reared in an intellectual environment. She traveled with her family. She became fluent in French and Spanish and enjoyed the tutelage of her father. But the Peytons' family life was shattered by the fatal illness and death of 34-year-old Anne Peyton in New Orleans in 1845. Em was motherless at the age of 14. In November of that same year, her 37-year-old uncle Joseph Peyton died while in office. He was in his second term as a member of the U.S. House. Two years later, her little sister, Nan, died at age seven after being thrown from her pony.

Given Em Peyton's later accomplishments, historians theorize that sometime during her childhood she was discovered to be a "chip off the old block" in terms of intellect and leadership. At a time when educational opportunities for girls were limited to literary finishing schools, she was sent to the best school in the South—the Nashville Female Academy. Founded in 1816,

Nashville Female Academy was the first formal school for girls and young women in the city. In addition to the usual ladylike classes in painting, hand work and music, it offered a more rigorous curriculum of Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, Composition, History, Geography (ancient and modern), Rhetoric, Logic, Moral Philosophy, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Botany and Mythology. The academy closed for good when Nashville fell to Union forces in early 1862.

Smart and polished, Em apparently moved naturally into the role of secretary and hostess for the Peyton family during her teens after her mother's death. She never married but grew up to be a leader of society anyway.

In May of 1846, only months after Anne Peyton's death and while the family still lived in New Orleans, America declared war on Mexico. Bailie Peyton volunteered to fight, was quickly made a colonel, began recruiting troops, then left for Mexico. When he arrived, he volunteered as aide-de-camp for Louisianan Gen. Zachary Taylor. It turned out to be a fortuitous job for Bailie. It boosted his career.

How Em Became Secretary

When the war officially ended in February of 1848, Taylor, who was by then a war hero, ran for President. He got strong support from Peyton, and when he was elected later that year he appointed Peyton as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the U.S. to Chile. Peyton realized that he had in his own daughter a well-educated and loyal helper who also spoke Spanish and French and was socially and politically savvy. So he took a chance and hired Em as his private secretary. She was 18.

She signed all documents "E.T. Peyton." Washington officials assumed that E.T. was a he, and Peyton failed to mention that the "E" stood for Emily. Unknowingly, the government paid her a salary as secretary for the entire American legation in Santiago, Chile. Thus, young Em became the first female in U.S. foreign service to be paid by the government.

After her father's four year term, Em returned to the states and secured a teaching position at the Nashville Female Academy. She taught there until the Civil War shut it down. Bailie Peyton, meanwhile, headed to San Francisco, arriving in 1853 at the mid-term of the California gold rush. He became the prosecuting attorney for San Francisco from '53 to '59, after which he came home to Gallatin to practice law and build up the family horse breeding business.

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Nothing has yet been found about Em's life during the Civil War. After it was over and with the academy closed, Em opened her own private girls' school at the family home at Station Camp. Her school boasted an extensive library. Em, herself, offered students a well-rounded education, giving them the benefit of her wide travels, superior training and social standing. Her reputation was of a woman with an unending file in her brain of anecdotes and reminiscences, which provided joy and pleasure to her young friends, whom she enjoyed immensely.

Making the Social Scene

Presumably, Em continued to move in influential social and political circles. Her brother John married the daughter of Gov. William Trousdale in 1861. Bailie Peyton was a state senator between 1869 and 1871, and she was certainly in his circle of friends. In January 1873, she was elected as engrossing clerk for the State Senate, which made her the only woman who was part of the State Legislature.

During the 1870s and 1880s, she was well aware of the progress being made by the National Women's Suffrage Association. She was a strong proponent of that movement, which was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was its first president.

After Bailie's death in 1878, Em sold the farm and moved into Gallatin, living on University St., now called North Water Ave. She liked life in her town house, hosting luncheons and parties for young couples. She was the town's social leader well past middle age. She hired bands, including Ed Pursley's Band, which was a favorite, and she remained active—a trailblazer among the women of Sumner County. Em Peyton died on Feb. 15, 1896, after a brief illness. She was 65.

Become SCHS Member

If you know someone who wants to join SCHS or if you would like to give a membership, send a check for the type of membership you want and mailing information to:

Sumner County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1871

Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

Individual Membership- \$20

Family Membership-\$25

Student Membership-\$10

Total enclosed \$ _____

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Email:

For more information, call SC Archives: 615-452-0037.

Franklin Widow Briefly Wed

A wedding drama that set tongues to wagging back in 1894 is now an intriguing footnote in the history of the Kennesaw estate owners.

Recounted in *The Nashville American* is this October 1884 story, "In The Social Realm":

"Herr Bernard Francis Seraph de Gruenebaum, son of an Austrian Baron, and Mrs. Elizabeth P. Franklin [Bettie], widow of the late noted turfman, Capt. James P. Franklin, were married yesterday afternoon by Justice John L. Glenn at the latter's office, on Union Street. Herr de Gruenebaum has been in this country about four years and met his bride in New York about a year ago. Yesterday's interesting ceremony was the outcome of a warm friendship which was formed at that meeting and which gradually grew to be something more than friendship. The groom came here a day or two ago and registered at the Maxwell [grand hotel in Nashville], but the bride-elect objected for some reason to the performance of the ceremony there, and the fact that Herr de Gruenbaum is a Catholic necessitated special dispensation to cement the union, so the couple met Justice Glenn by special appointment. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a few gentlemen who happened to be in the court-room at that time. The contracting parties were unattended and immediately subsequent to the ceremony entered a carriage and were driven to the Maxwell House. At 3:15 o'clock in the afternoon, the ceremony was repeated in the beautiful Catholic service at the Cathedral. Herr and Frau de Gruenebaum will make their home in New York."

The re-marriage of the wealthy Mrs. Franklin to minor royalty was interesting in itself, but it is what came two months later that would provide fodder for gossip. Recounted in the December 1884 *San Francisco Call* is the following story, "Soon Grew Weary of Her. Baron Gruenbaum Sorry He Married the Widow." It says: **NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 16**—Some weeks ago Baron Gruenbaum of Austria and Mrs. Franklin, widow of the well-known turf man, were married by a Justice of the Peace in this city and repaired at once to Kennesaw, the Franklin stock farm in Sumner County, to pass the honeymoon.

"Everything went smoothly until some 10 days ago when it was hinted in Gallatin that trouble had arisen and divorce proceedings would follow. In the meantime, the Baron left Kennesaw and took up quarters in a hotel at Gallatin, telling a tale of trouble and woe to all listeners. Friday evening last he raised money enough for his passage to New York and left the city. He tried to file a bill for divorce but was advised that he had no legal grounds."

Settlers Fell During the Indian Wars in 1786-'87

EARLY HISTORY OF THE SOUTH-WEST. INDIAN BATTLES AND MURDERS

—NARRATIVE OF GENERAL WILLIAM HALL. *South-Western Monthly*. Nashville, April 1852

Editor's Note: The following is a fascinating excerpt from *Early Times in Middle*

Tennessee, Chapter 4, By John Carr, 1857. The original text has been divided into paragraphs to make it more easily read. The original is all one paragraph.

It was about the year 1786, or 1787, that the people of Sumner county began to suffer very seriously from the depredations of the Indians. I shall now attempt to give the names of the persons killed in Sumner county, as far as I know, from that time to the close of the war. I need not be particular in referring to dates, but will try to be so as regards names and localities.

The Indians killed Mr. Price and his wife, down the creek just below Gallatin. They killed John Pervine, about two miles north-east of Gallatin, at Dr. Donnel's. They killed John Beard, near the head of Big Station Camp Creek. They killed three sons of William Montgomery, named John, Thomas, and Robert, about two and a half miles below Shackle Island, on Drake's Creek. They killed Robert Jones, near where Major Wilson settled, about two miles east of Gallatin. They came very near killing Mrs. Parker, formerly Mrs. Anthony Bledsoe, but they were kept at bay by Thomas Spencer, "the bravest of the brave," while she made her escape.

They killed Richard Bartly, near the Walnutfield fort; and Henry Howdyshell and Samuel Farr, in the same vicinity. They killed Major George Winchester, near the site of Gallatin, while he was on his way to court. He was an excellent man, and we suffered a great loss in his death. The Indians killed Benjamin Williams and his wife, about two and a half miles north of Gallatin, on the plantation now owned by James House, Esq. They killed John Edwards, about four miles northwest of Gallatin, near the spot where Salem Church now stands.

They killed Robert Brigham, near White's Station; and William Bratton, near the same place. They killed James Dickinson, between White's Station and Col. Saunders's Fort; also two sons of Col. Saunders, whose names I have forgotten; and two sons of Robert Desha: their names were Benjamin and Robert. Near the same place, also, they killed Benjamin Keykendall. They killed old Mr. Morgan, the father of Esquire John Morgan, who owned the fort near that place.

They killed James Steele and his daughter Elizabeth, a grown young lady, while they were passing from Greenfield to Morgan Station. At Greenfield, one morning, when the hands had gone out into the field to plough, an attack was

made by a large body of Indians; and a young man named Jarvis, and a Negro man, were killed by them. Immediately William Hall, William Neely, William Wilson, and James Hays encountered the Indians, and contended with them for some time. Hall and Hays each killed an Indian, and no doubt others were killed; and finally the whole body retreated before these four men. Their bravery on this occasion, I presume, was never surpassed anywhere in the country. Hall and Neely had each lost a father and two brothers by the hands of the savages. Captain Alexander Neely and his two sons were killed about a mile from Bledsoe's Lick, at the place where the widow Parker now lives.

They killed old Mr. Peyton, grandfather of the Hon. Baylie Peyton, at Bledsoe's Lick. They killed Captain Charles Morgan and old Mr. Gibson (Jordan), near where Gen. Hall now lives. They killed Henry Ramsey, near where Rural Academy now stands, between Greenfield and Bledsoe's Lick. They killed William Ramsey, at the mouth of the lane leading from Bledsoe's Lick Fort to Bledsoe's Creek. They killed two men down on Bledsoe's Creek—the name of one was Waters, that of the other I do not recollect. They killed John Bartly, Jr., near Greenfield.

They killed James Hall, brother of Gen. Hall, near the present residence of the latter, who was with him, and made a hair's-breadth escape. They killed Major William Hall, the General's father, and his brother Richard, and a young man named Hickerson, while they were all moving from where the General now lives to the fort at the Lick. Old Mrs. Hall, and the General, and his brother John, and sister Prudence, with all the Negroes, made their escape. This affair was, indeed, a dreadful calamity.

The same night they killed Col. Anthony Bledsoe, and a young man named Campbell, at the fort at Bledsoe's Lick; and after that they killed Thomas Bledsoe. They also killed Col. Isaac Bledsoe, near the Station at Bledsoe's Lick; and, besides these, two sons—one of Col. Isaac and one of Col. Anthony, both named Anthony—while they were boarding at Gen. Smith's, and going to school on Drake's Creek, near Hendersonville.

They killed Nathan Latimore and David Scoby, citizens of Sumner county, near the Rock Island, on Caney Fork, when Lieut. Snoddy had a severe battle with the Indians, in which he defeated them, and returned home with great honor.

They killed Robert Hardin while he was hunting

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on the Cumberland river, near Fort Blount. They killed John Lawrence, William Haynes, and Michael Hampton, on the north side of the ridge, either at the head of Red river, or on the waters of Drake's Creek, I believe in Sumner County.

They killed Armsted Morgan, a brother of Captain Charles Morgan, and a fine- humored, well-disposed young man, while he was guiding through from "South-west Point" Captain Handy and a company of men for the protection of the Cumberland settlements. When they had arrived at the "Crab Orchard," on this side of the 'South-west Point," they were attacked by a large body of Indians, and Armsted, Morgan, and two other men were killed. Captain Handy's men were thrown into confusion, and, while he was trying to rally them, he was surrounded by the Indians. But he fought so bravely with his sword that Archy Coody, the half-breed, was struck with admiration, and springing in, he saved his life. He was taken prisoner, and carried, I believe to Willstown, in the Cherokee Nation. Col. Brown states in his narrative, that he "was present at Knoxville when Coody, the half-breed, brought Captain Handy into Knoxville, and was introduced by Captain Handy to Governor Sevier and the other eminent men present, with the words, 'This, gentlemen, is my deliverer.' Captain Handy died in Lincoln county, in this State, about the year 1846. He was a very religious, as well as a brave man."

Thomas Spencer was killed between Carthage and "South-west Point," at a place now called Spencer's Hill. Captain John Hickerson was killed on Smith's Fork, now in DeKalb county, where Gen. Winchester had a brush with the Indians. They killed Jacob Zigler, Michael Shaver, Archy Wilson, and a Negro girl, when Zigler's Station was captured.

There may have been other persons killed by the Indians in this county; but if there were, I do not recollect them. With a few exceptions, all of those killed were residents of Sumner county; and surely its settlement was paid for in blood. In the deaths of Col. Isaac Bledsoe, Col. Anthony Bledsoe, Major George Winchester, and Major William Hall, Sumner county suffered great loss, as they were, in a great degree, the file-leaders

of the people. However, there were other prominent men, who managed our affairs, both civil and military, with much propriety; and among these were Gen. James Winchester, Gen. Daniel Smith, Col. Ed. Douglass, Major David Wilson, David Shelby, and others.

-----Toll Gate House-----



Pictured are Harry S. McKinley (1882-1920) and his mother Mrs. Sarah Ann Elliott McKinley (1839 to sometime after 1900) in front of the toll gate house that was on Dobbins Pike near Gallatin. Sarah Ann was the wife of William John McKinley (b. 1834) and the daughter of James and Delile Elliott. She came to America with her parents from Ireland in 1852. James Elliott was a harness maker. This photo is from the collection of SCHS President Ken Thomson.

Historical Society Now Has Facebook Page

Check out the new Sumner County Historical Society's facebook page. We plan to post information on historical events of the past and present. If you have information to share or requests for information regarding Sumner County history, please post on the page or contact Jane Wright at jswright107@gmail.com or 615-452-7704. If you want to email SCHS for any reason, the email address is: schstn1786@gmail.com.

Women's Suffrage Vote Kept Dad from the Wedding

By Eddie Roberson, Hendersonville Alderman

August 18, 2020, marked the 100th anniversary of Tennessee passing legislation to ratify the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution permitting women the right to vote.

Tennessee's passage was vital. It was the 36th state to ratify the amendment thereby meeting the constitutional standard to amend the Constitution. Political pressure was intense. Though there were victory celebrations all over the nation after Tennessee's vote, many people were not happy. After the historic vote that hot Wednesday, some courageous legislators had to stand up against those who thought the change was wrongheaded. My great grandfather Rep. Jacob (Jake) Simpson of Cleveland, Tenn., was one of those legislators. He wore the yellow rose and proudly cast his ballot for women. By a close vote—50 of the 99 cast—the battle was won.

Tennessee made history with the vote, and a miniature Liberty Bell was rung on the House floor. Then it was time for the legislators to go home and face their voters. Some were met with cheers, but others were ridiculed and threatened.

Aug. 18, 1920, was also the date of Jake's daughter and my grandmother Ethel Simpson's wedding. Most daughters have their father give them away at the wedding ceremony, but Ethel had to stand alone at the altar because her father was in Nashville voting to give her and her female descendants the right to vote.

As the wedding neared, Ethel nervously kept asking her mother, "Where's Dad?" Jake had hoped to catch a train back to Cleveland to be home in time for his daughter's wedding, but fate had other plans.

As Jake arrived in Cleveland after his daughter's wedding, several burly local men approached him as he departed the train. They expressed in no uncertain terms disagreement with Jake's vote and asked in angry tones why in the world he agreed to allow women to vote.

Trying to diffuse the tense situation, Jake—using his keen Irish sense of humor—explained that he had eight daughters and a wife and for peace at home he had to vote for the amendment. As some in the crowd roared with laughter, Jake saw one of his sons waiting in a Model T Ford. He jumped in the car, and they sped home.

The next morning, Jake visited his daughter and new son-in-law, Carlos Roberson, a popular barber in Cleveland, to congratulate them and apologize for missing the wedding. Little is known in the family exactly how Jake apologized, but the words must have succeeded because the bond

between father and daughter endured until both died of old age.

I recall conversations with my grandmother years ago, and she had a glowing sense of pride every time she spoke of her father.

The following year, 1921, Jake ran for re-election to the General Assembly on a platform of low taxes and better roads, but the majority of voters remembered his vote on the 19th Amendment and turned him out of office.

According to family lore, Jake never regretted his vote, and all of his daughters adored his courage for taking a stand for their future.

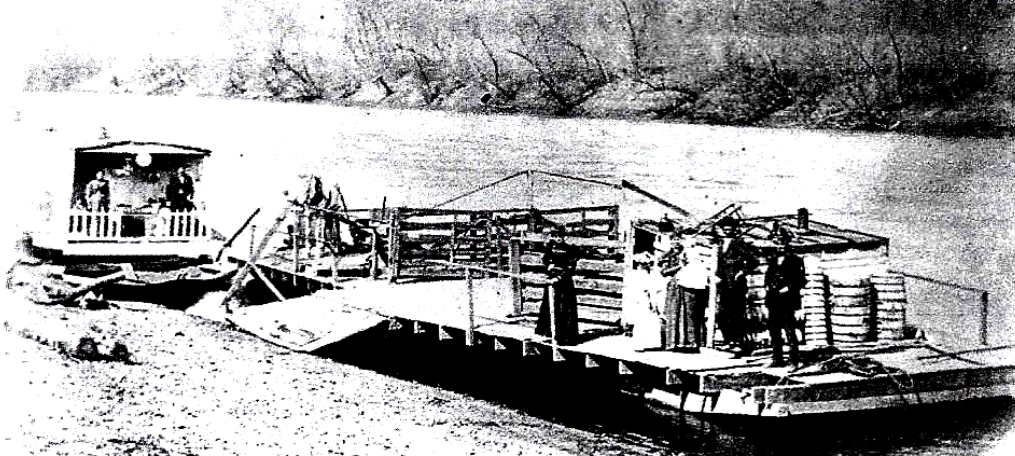


Dresser Led Suffrage in Sumner Co.

Pictured at top left is Prudence Simpson Dresser (b. 1869, d. 1938), well-known music teacher and performer in Gallatin and Nashville and a powerful crusader for the suffrage movement in this area. An independent woman with her own business, she was president of the Sumner County Equal Suffrage League and vice president of the Middle Tennessee suffrage association. It took courage for early 20th century women to support the right to vote. Sumner County women were known to be spat



upon for suffrage activities. Pictured at lower left are Jane Wright, vice regent of the General Jethro Sumner Chapter DAR, and Ken Thomson, president of the SCHS, representing the two organizations that recently had Prudence Dresser's name and dates engraved on the tombstone at Gallatin City Cemetery she shares with her husband. The omission of her name was discovered by the DAR and Sumner County Museum. Three donors paid for the engraving that will ensure that her name is displayed and not forgotten. More about Prudence Dresser can be found in the 2017 April and July editions of this newsletter.

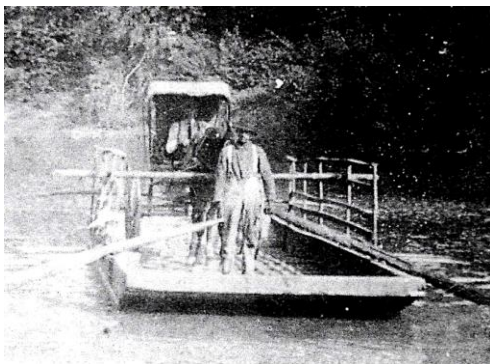


Woods Ferry lands 1900s

(FERRY, Continued from Page 1)

of a drive wheel turning a paddle. The drive wheel was turned by a horse attached by a harness. Blind horses were used since they would not become dizzy walking around and around the one track.

Other ferries operated on a system of cables, rope, chain or wire. A cable anchored to the shore was attached through a pulley on the side of the ferry. The ferryman turned the boat at an angle to the current forcing the boat along the cable line to shore. Sometimes an overhead cable stretched between two river banks, and the ferryman pulled his boat hand over hand to shore. Ferries also used winches on opposite sides of the river, pulling the ferry to shore.



Cairo Ferry

Throughout the 1800's, ferries carried livestock, produce and people across the river. A dance or revival could cause long delays for horse and buggies waiting their turn. A bridge was often discussed, but the people of Sumner and Wilson Counties waited until 1954 for that.

During the Civil War, the occupying Union Army commandeered the ferries for Union troops and prohibited Confederate families from use. Woods Ferry transported Union troops, but Cage's Ferry

was ordered sunk. After the Civil War ended, the Downs family acquired operation of Woods Ferry. John Downs piloted the ferry for more than 40 years, employing the horse and paddle method.

During WWII, Woods Ferry performed an important role in troop maneuvers between Sumner and Wilson Counties. Once during maneuvers, the ferry was overloaded and sank. Jim Daughtery was able to raise the boat, and it continued in service.

Ferries began conversion to gasoline motors in the 1900's. Motor driven ferries were safer and could land edge ways to the bank, saving time unloading. Woods Ferry converted to motor in 1935, and Lee and Allen Downs ran the ferry. Over the years, Woods Ferry was also piloted by Jim Daughtery, Sam Watson, Wilson Brown and Mr. Richardson. Woods Ferry was the last ferry in service until the 1950's. By 1954, the opening of Highway 109 Cumberland River Bridge made ferry service obsolete.

Sumner County had long waited for a bridge across the Cumberland. In 1898, the Woods Ferry Bridge bill passed the Legislature and was sent to Congress for approval, where it died. In 1929 state legislators passed another bridge bill and plans were drawn up for construction. However, the Great Depression and failure of the Bank of Tennessee halted plans. Finally in 1954 completion of the Veterans Memorial Bridge united Sumner and Wilson Counties. The bridge stood until 2014 when it was replaced by a new bridge named after Walter Durham, Sumner County author and historian.

Sources: Sumner County Archives, The Great Leap Westward by Walter Durham, Rebellion Revisited by Walter Durham, News Examiner, The Tennessean, 1878 map of Sumner County by D.G. Beers & Co., 1836 map of Sumner County, Randy Tatum, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Downs family.

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