Freedom of slaves could be gained by legal process

Twelfth in a series of historic articles about Anderson County, presented as a part of the county's participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial and the county's 175th anniversary. January 17, 1974.

By Katherine B. Hoskins
County Historian

In some of the early deed books of Anderson County, land deeds are interspersed by deeds conveying slaves from one owner to another. Slave conveyances portray this phase of Anderson County life in a positive manner. The wording in some reflects the attitude of owners toward slaves, and sometimes a reason is given for the transfer, which gives insight into many things which happened during the days of slavery.

For instance, some of the transfers were not sales but gifts. A popular wedding present in slave-holding families was the favorite slave of the bride or bride groom, presented as a gift, to go into the new home and care for the newly-married couple.

In such a case the consideration might read like this: "Out of love and affection for my daughter Jane, I hereby convey to her, as a gift, my black woman Eliza."

Reading between the lines one can only sense not only the love of parents for their children, but also love and affection of master for slave in wanting that slave to stay with a member of the family or she would receive kind treatment.

But all was not love and affection. Many slave deeds were strictly business matters—tranferring property for money. Slaves were "property" and, as such, were highly negotiable. Some of the slave deeds sound like pretty cold-blooded transactions, considering that human life was the property being sold.

A certain trust deed drawn in Anderson County conveyed: "A yellow woman, Vina, and her children, Robert, Win and Alex, together with a piece of land, three horses, one gray mare and a colt, to secure a debt of $806.25." Another one conveyed "Slave boy, Bob, to secure a note for $500." If the note had not been paid when due, Bob was to have been sold to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse, after 10 days' public notice.

As property, slaves were taxable, the county rate in 1848 being 30 cents per $100 assessed valuation. However, it was difficult to get all the slaves on the tax rolls as taxable property.

Slaves increased greatly in value during the late 1840s and early 1850s. In 1847 a total 214 slaves which had been declared taxable were valued at $114,536.

At that time prices of slaves in Anderson County ranged from about $100 for a small child, girl or boy, 2 or 3 years old, up to $1,000 or more for a young man or woman, sensible and in good health, between 18 and 30 years of age.

From time to time slave holders in Anderson County would voluntarily liberate slaves by legal process. In some instances it is not known why these people became slave owners—whether by gift, inheritance or purchase. They had nevertheless acquired Negro slaves and later desired to give them complete and lasting freedom.

One such case, selected at random, is that of Mrs. Zepporah England. Mrs. England petitioned the April 1836 session of County Court to issue a certificate, according to law, setting free a Negro man named Charles.

Charles was 20 years of age in 1836 and had been given Mrs. England by her father when Charles was 5 years old. She stated that he was industrious, honest and of good character, that she was grateful to him for having served her faithfully, but she was unwilling to hold him in slavery any longer and wanted no other person to ever hold him in bondage.

John Chiles, chairman of the Court, reported that nine justices being present and two-thirds in the voting in the affirmative, the petition was granted and Charles was given his freedom.

Even freedom in those days had disadvantages. There was the ever-present danger of being mistaken for a runaway slave, so, until emancipation, free black people had to carry legal proof of liberation. It was considered a felony under the law for either a black or white person to harber a runaway slave.

Sometimes it was hard for a newly-freed slave to find employment. However, many had acquired skills needed in the community and found their place as carpenter, mason, cobbler, or doing other work.

Slaves were not allowed to own property. The law did not allow them to testify in court against a white person, and they were not in court very often because most misdemeanors were handled out of court—usually in the form of whipping by their master.

In court testimony during the days of slavery an occasional statement would appear about various slave owners walking down the street with a cowhide whip. The supposition was they had been "whipping their negroes." As shocking as this sounds, it was a time when public whippings on the courthouse square were administered to blacks and white alike when ordered by the court for certain crimes committed.

One of the many difficult things to rationalize in connection with slave-holding custom is that slaves had only a given name. After freedom it was necessary to have a surname for identification.

Most slaves seem to have taken the family name of their master at the time of liberation. Some took that of the family who owned them at birth. Still others did neither and selected a name to their liking. It is said this was because they did not wish to carry the name of a family who had been unkind to them. Be that as it may, as free people they soon became known by the surname of their own selection.

Anderson County was established in 1801. By direction of Tennessee's General Assembly a county seat was selected at the same time. An almost perfect spot was chosen—the west bank of the beautiful river traversing the county. For many years Indians had traveled this river by canoe to hunt, fish and go from one village to another. A few Cherokees still lived on Walden's Ridge near the town. Aaron Burr was vice-president of the United States, and the settlers named the town Burrville in his honor. In 1809 the town's name was changed to Clinton for the prominent Clinton family of New York state. George Clinton was then U.S. vice-president. And the name of the river, called Pelisippi by the Indians, had been changed to Clinch.

Settling-up began in earnest. A sturdy group of Anglo-Saxon people built houses, stores and a few public buildings. A one-room log courthouse was finished in 1803, near the site of today's impressive building. Stocks, used for public punishment, occupied a prominent place on the first courthouse square. The inhabitants remained almost pure Anglo-Saxon for more than a century.

Stories retold of two slaves: John Tate and Aunt Priscilla

Thirteenth in a series of historic articles about Anderson County, presented as a part of the county's participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial and the county's 175th anniversary. January 24, 1974.

By Katherine B. Hoskins
County Historian

About 1840 Dr. Milton Tate came to Clinton from Tate Springs, Tenn. He brought with him his slave, a black man named John.

Shortly after moving to Clinton Dr. Tate purchased a farm, and in 1844 he was elected Circuit Court clerk. He was also engaged in the practice of medicine, so he was very busy most of the time. He entrusted the management of his farm entirely to John, and at times when he was visiting the sick, John attended the clerk's office. Dr. Tate died in 1856 and was buried in the McAdoo-Baker Cemetery in North Clinton. After his death it was found he had willed his farm to John.

As time went on John became well known throughout the county. He was intelligent, kept posted on current affairs and came to exercise considerable influence in local politics and church circles. He frequently spoke at political conventions and people listened to what he had to say. He was large in physique, an eloquent speaker and had a strong musical voice. He loved to sing.

He became a minister and was said to have preached a simple, direct gospel which changed many lives. Tate organized Asbury Methodist Church in Clinton May 29, 1865. It was first called Tate's Chapel M. E. Church. The building timber was hewn by Tate and charter members of the church, and the cornerstone bore the name of Rev. John G. Tate. A new church was built on the site in 1898.

One day John dreamed a great dream which he was determined to make come true. It was to form a colony for Negroes somewhere in East Tennessee. In 1879 he traded the Tate farm for 600 acres of mountain land in Cumberland County which he felt would be ideal for his colony. So he moved there with his wife, Rosanne, and daughter, Hester, along with several other families from Clinton and a few from Morristown. He was disappointed that so few accompanied him and found more disappointment awaiting him there. Never having slavery in that area the people did not feel a sense of sympathy for the colonists and felt a strangeness in being around them. The environment seemed hostile so that Tate and his associates were uncomfortable. This, with the unproductiveness of the land, caused the colony to fail and John eventually came back to Clinton and Anderson County.

Aunt Priscilla and Little Lord Fauntleroy

Priscilla Whitson (known to nearly everyone as "Aunt Priscilla") was born a slave in the Chesley Jarnigan family around 1827. Mr. Jarnigan gave her to his daughter, Mary, when she married Henry Harris of Dandridge. At her own request Priscilla was sold to the McNutts because she wished to marry a man who was a slave in that family. She refugeed with them over the South after the war and later came back to Knoxville.

When the authoress Frances Hodgson and Dr. S. M. Burnett were married, Aunt Priscilla went to live with them at the corner of Cumberland Ave. and Henley St. She was fond of telling how she was nurse to Mrs. Burnett's son, Lionel, saying she looked after the real Little Lord Fauntleroy while his mother put "dat sweet chile in a book." Many times she would say that her only disappointment in life was that Mrs. Burnett did not put the "old black mammy in that book stead'n that French nurse."

Aunt Priscilla traveled with the famous authoress seven months in Europe, looking after the children Lionel and Vivian. It is told that in London, when Mrs. Burnett's carriage would happen to stop in the street, a crowd would immediately gather, staring into it. Instead of admiring the children, as was first supposed to be the case, the crowds were staring at Priscilla because a Negro in London was very uncommon.

Shortly after this, Priscilla and Henderson Whitson of Clinton were married. She lived in Clinton several years before her death, was well known and remembered as a handsome woman with unusual intelligence. She died around 1902 or 1903 and was buried in the graveyard behind Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. Her grave is unmarked and it is not known exactly which one it is.

Aunt Priscilla's daughter, Jane, married a Martin and moved to Macon, Ga., where she resided on Chestnut St. She used to visit and keep in touch with the Clinton folk but has not been heard from in a long time and is presumed to be dead.

The Knoxville Journal & Tribune carried a notice of Aunt Priscilla's death, saying, "The death of Priscilla Whitson removed one of the truest friends Little Lord Fauntleroy ever had."



BELOVED SLAVE—Aunt Priscilla Whitson, born a slave in Clinton, is shown with one of the children she cared for. The child grew up to become Mrs. Alex Sharp.—*Picture courtesy of Mrs. J. Park Vestal, Knoxville.*

Responsibility back to county

Freed slave donated land for first Negro school after war

This is the 125th in a series of historic articles about Anderson County, presented as a part of the county's participation in the American Revolution bicentennial and the county's 175th anniversary. March 25, 1976.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian
Part II

It is believed the first school for Negroes after the Civil War was built on land donated by a freed slave, Andrew Freeman. He bought a piece of land in the old Eighth Civil District and deeded it to the Eighth District school directors of Anderson County, George W. Leath, Mahlon Hibbs and Pleasant M. Freels, for a Negro school and church. The following excerpt as to the location is from the deed:

". . . located on the west side of the road from Clinton to Scarbroughtown, where the Clinton-Scarbrough road crosses the Pine Ridge at the Clinton nine mile post close by the grave of J. L. Scarbrough, containing 1¼ acres, being the lot on which a school house to be known as Whittier School House is being erected."

The deed further stated: "Andrew Freeman is desirous of donating a site for a school house for the colored children and colored people of Anderson County and a place of religious worship for the colored people of said county. . . as a token of his high regard for the religious interests of his county and his desire for the instruction and elevation of his race." The deed was witnessed by Charles D. McGuffey, Anderson County school superintendent, and the mark of Phil A. Bader, a freeman.

In the deed books of Anderson County, especially during Reconstruction, many such gifts of lands for schools and churches may be found, indicative of the desire of county residents to speed the advancement of education and religion.

During this period, subscription schools were being started in various parts of the county where no public schools had been established or to prolong the school year a few months after the public school had closed. One such subscription school was held in the Third District, at the Horse Spring School House, by John T. Grant.

In August 1870 he signed 21 students, at a price of $1.00 per month per student, for which he proposed to teach spelling, writing and the first book of arithmetic.

The students were Avey S. Cox, C. Curnutt, Susan Foust, Calvin Gilbert, James Jones, William Jones, Ahaz Johnson, Joseph Landrom, Alvis Melton, James Melton, John McGhee, John Poore, A. Ridenour, David Ridenour, D. V. Ridenour, William Robbins, Catherine Sharp, Nicholas Sharp, David Wallace, Marion J. Welch and R. G. Whitted.

The paper work required for the newly-organized state department was necessary, but was new to the local directors and teachers over the state, who were totally inexperienced. So, difficulty was encountered in this respect, as reported by Supt. McGuffey on September 30, 1869:

"I forward you the preliminary report, very imperfect indeed. The directors and teachers must be educated to making such reports; at present they are strangers to the business."

While the counties were struggling along, trying to get started, confusion seemed to exist in Nashville. In 1870 another school law was passed (supplanting the one of 1867) and the office of the state superintendent was abolished.

Due to the financial condition of the state as a whole, this new law of 1870 remitted the entire matter of education to the counties, but did not impose any obligation on the counties to take action. The state treasurer was ex-officio superintendent of public instruction—but without authority. Nevertheless, he engaged an assistant, Col. Killebrew.

This lack of interest and assistance on the part of the state naturally had an adverse effect on the individual counties. In 1870 only 27 out of 63 counties levied a school tax. Very little had been done to derive benefits from the lands set aside by the government for school use, either by utilization of the land itself, or by the sale of same as a means of revenue.

The situation all over the state was undoubtedly bad. More than 30 years later, State Superintendent Mynders, in reviewing the history of education in Tennessee, said: "Of the history of common schools in Tennessee prior to the establishment of the present system in 1873, it was well said by Phelan, the historian, that the history of the common school is, in the main, the history of public lands in Tennessee, and the history of public lands in Tennessee is the history of confusion. More than 300 acts have been passed upon subjects growing out of the relation between public schools and the school lands of the state."

During this particular period in the history of education in Anderson County, the county superintendent's task was discouraging. It was time-consuming, but with little or no pay, and with very little actual authority over the schools in the county. The money was still handled entirely by the district directors, who received the school funds from the county trustee, giving a receipt therefor.

Some directors could not sign their names but tried very hard to see that the children had facilities for learning to read and write. The clerks of the school districts paid the teachers and could be served with garnishments to withhold the pay of the teachers for debts.

Many times the directors had to prosecute through the courts certain people who would create public disturbances at educational meetings.

In August 1903 Ex-Gov. of Tennessee, Robert L. Taylor, delivered his famous Fiddle & Bow lecture at the Court House in Clinton. He also lectured at Coal Creek, now Lake City.

March 30, 1888. R. Rutherford purchased the contract and is now carrying mail between Clinton and Oliver Springs. He bought the route from W. C. Bailey, and is running a daily hack.

conditioned for the safe keeping, good treatment and delivery of said slaves to their owners upon application of such owner or his agent, or to the jailer, upon expiration of the period of confinement of such slaves.

An 1860 law provided that "any person who had sold spiritous or vinous liquors by retail to any free person of color knowingly, or suffer them or slaves to assemble at night time or on Sundays on the premises of such person who may have spiritous liquors, such person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished at the discretion of the court and jury."

(Continued)

Efforts to document slave life

History of black people told best by themselves

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. August 20, 1981.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part II

Even during the days of slavery the experience of slaves had been recorded in a few instances.

Since that time there have been numerous pen pictures and narratives of old slaves, or their descendants, documented.

One such record coming to the writer's attention seems especially interesting, perhaps because it contains narratives in the actual words of slaves who were still living in 1937-38-39 and who had been slaves in various places within the southeastern part of the United States. Other portions of the volume consist of narratives by descendants of slaves which had been told to them by their parents or grandparents.

The volume is entitled **Lay My Burden Down.** It is a folk history of slavery, edited by B. A. Botkin and published in 1945. It is a selection of recorded interviews which constituted a portion of the Federal Writer's Project. Botkin was chief editor of the writer's unit of the Library of Congress at that time.

The book contains personal narratives of ex-slaves, or their descendants, in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indian Territory, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In the state of Tennessee, the towns or counties where interviews were held included Caneville, Chattanooga, Davidson County, Decatur, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Sparta and Wildersville, Murfreesboro and Nashville.

One interview in Knoxville was with a slave who, when he was 8 years old, had been sold to Ben Cowan. Another was with Andrew Moss of Knoxville, an ex-slave who had been born in 1852 and was 85 years old when interviewed in 1937. The Tennessee colony on the Cumberland Plateau was mentioned by one ex-slave who went there after freedom.

The volume is well worth reading, but interesting as it is, it does not contain anything about Anderson County during the days of slavery. And, really, very little has been found in published works about slave life in East Tennessee. So, Anderson County's history of its black citizens becomes subordinate local history to general studies of social history of life in the South during that period.

However, a great many interesting facts about the black population of Anderson County have been gleaned from official court records, deeds, wills, newspapers, personal interviews and other sources. These facts concern persons and accomplishments of which the county may be proud.

To be a slave in Anderson or any other East Tennessee county was vastly different from slave life on a large plantation where a hundred or more slaves lived in the slave quarters. On the small farm, or in the case of black house servants, the relationship of master and slave must have been on an easier footing than where routine and rules had to be established for large numbers of slaves belonging to the same owner.

The following paragraphs are random notes from various sources:

John H. Garner, who died before 1858, had several slaves. His farm was 400 acres. The settlement of his estate in 1858 showed the names and prices at which some of his slaves were sold. They all brought high prices. Rinda sold for $1,204, Vinny $558 and Mitty and her child brought $1,191. Others sold at from $500 to $1,100.

An interesting sidelight mentioned in the court settlement was that Trigg and Temple, attorneys of Knoxville, were awarded a fee of $350 by court decree. They declined to take more than $250 until the case was completely closed, saying then they would decide if they thought their labor would entitle them to all of the $350.

The following is a portion of an interview with the late Mrs. Louranie McAdoo Weaver a few years before her death. She remembered that Charlie Moore, a former slave, had a cobbler shop for a long time on Hendrickson St. in Clinton about where the W. K. Ghormleys now live.

She remembered when the apartment house located on Moore St. in Clinton, almost straight across the railroad tracks from the Southern depot, was known as the Whitson House, famous for its meals, and that passenger trains going through Clinton would stop at meal time for passengers to go across and eat at the Whitson House.

She said that the first black school in Clinton was in the old Baptist cemetery on Edgewood Drive, in the old, old church building. Early black teachers in the county were John Shelton, a Mr. Hatcher and Spencer Roberts. There was a black school in the community where Mrs. Weaver lived (on Lewallen Rd. near Clinch River just above Moore's Ferry, or Clinchmoore Bridge, but it was discontinued many years ago. Blanche Goode taught there, as well as Blanche Jarnigan before she married a Mr. Hadyn.

(To be continued)



Anderson County Fair Barn, early 1900.

Very few records available

Early Anderson County black history neglected

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. Aug. 27, 1981.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part III

Almost everyone has heard the old expression, "Seems like I'm always a day late and a dollar short." Well, Anderson County fits that description pretty well when it comes to black history, and the county historian is to blame for part of it.

We are certainly many days and dollars short in documenting the early black history of our county. Any research into history is time-consuming and expensive, especially where some travel is necessary. And very early unrecorded black history is now practically non-existent. So it is easy to console oneself with putting the more difficult research off until "tomorrow."

Last week and this week we are presenting some of the information obtained from personal interviews, court records and other available sources. A portion of this was printed in this column a few years ago, but is repeated in the hope that it will encourage people who have this type of information to make it available. For the most part, the following paragraphs are reminiscences of slaves, as told to their children or grandchildren.

More from Mrs. Louranie Weaver: Louranie's father was John (or Jack) McAdoo, slave of the John McAdoo family. Her mother was the former Clarissy Young. As a child Clarissy lived below Augusta, Ga. About all she remembered about life in Georgia was that one day she was playing alongside the road with a little boy named Toby. She did not know if he was her brother, cousin, neighbor or who. She said while they were playing some men came by on horses and stopped to talk with the children. One of the men apparently took a fancy to Clarissy, reached down, picked her up, put her on the horse behind him and took her to Tennessee.

Some time later she came into the possession of a Mr. Woodson in Fincastle, who gave her to his daughter, Elizabeth. When Elizabeth married Judge D. K. Young of Anderson County, she took Clarissy with her and she became a Young slave. Sometimes when Mrs. Young would become vexed with Clarissy she would say to her, "Clarissy, if you don't do better I am just going to put you in my pocket." As a child Clarissy always wondered how in the world her mistress could put her in her pocket. It was not until she became grown that she realized her mistress meant she would sell Clarissy and pocket the money.

When asked how the slaves held church services, Mrs. Weaver said they were held mostly in the slave cabins. Being by nature fearful and superstitious, they had the idea, whether or not there was any foundation, that the white folks didn't like for them to hold services. So, in order that their singing and chanting not be heard outside the cabin area, they would build up a fire inside the cabin where they were holding service and put a big kettle of water on. This they kept boiling so as to absorb or take up the sound. They did their own preaching.

The following information is from an Anderson County Chancery Court case during the days of slavery:

When a Negro would become unruly or run away, sometimes they would be put in jail for two or three days, and their master would threaten to find them a home "in the South." Apparently in some places farther south than East Tennessee, the masters were harder on their slaves than around here, because none of the slaves here wanted to be sent to Georgia or Mississippi or farther south.

The threat by the slave owner in the court case was intended only to alarm the Negro in question, who was named Biddy, and make her behave herself. He had no idea of selling her to anyone, but for the mere purpose of controlling Biddy he took a man from Georgia to the jail to look at her and pretend he wanted to buy her. The owner thought it had a good effect upon Biddy because she was a pretty good person after that.

An interview with the late Oscar Jarnigan included such information he had gotten from his father, Smith Jarnigan, who was born a slave in the Clinton family of Jarnigans who lived in the big brick house which was known as the Jarnigan Brick down through the years until it was torn down in 1970. It was located across Main St. from the courthouse, on the corner where the Clinton branch of the Bank of Oak Ridge is located.

Smith was only a lad when freedom came, and his wife (Oscar's mother) lived only one day a slave, having been born the day before freedom. She was from Union County. The following is part of the interview with Oscar Jarnigan.

Oscar said that from some of the things told him by his father, local race relations were easy and friendly and there was always a feeling of family affection between black and white people. He said the Jarnigan place was indeed built by slave labor, the bricks being baked on the farm from clay which they dug.

Smith Jarnigan was a cook in the Union Army, having been conscripted along with two brothers, Anderson and Henry, who also served in the Union Army.

Oscar remembered carrying water up the hill to his home from the Town Spring for drinking and cooking purposes or from the McAdoo Spring at the foot of the other side of the hill. Water for washing clothes was carried from a branch a little closer. He said nearly everyone in Clinton carried water from the Town Spring or from one of the two or three wells in town. There was a public well on Courthouse Square, and William Wade, who lived near the Baptist Church, had a well which he allowed everyone who wished to carry water from.

Oscar lived away from Clinton most of his adult life, having gone to the coal fields around Harlan, Ky. when a young man. He became a mine foreman and worked there until retirement at age 70. He said he probably would not have retired that young and they had begged him to stay, but his mother was ill and he came home to Clinton to see to her care.

(To be continued)



Women from Gadson Town had best team in county

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. May 27, 1982.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part IV-Conclusion

(Continued excerpts from the manuscript of Henry Lee Knott, descendant of the Tribe of Gad.)

Anderson County's first female baseball team was formed in Gadson Town. Team members were Nannie Cox, Carry Cox, Hattie Calloway, Malinda Gadson, Emma Thomas, Marilda Thomas, Francis Knott, Agnes Knott, Temmie Black, Mary Lee, Amanda Lee, Callie Marshall, Susanna Jones (star home run batter) and Beattie Black (star pitcher).

Mrs. Josie McAdoo was organizer and manager. The best male teams were no match for them, and they drew countywide attention of both black and white residents.

The uniforms were white sailor blouses and navy blue skirts. The skirt length was halfway between ankle and knee, and considered quite daring.

Isaac Gadson was a blacksmith, a tanner and shoemaker. He had a blacksmith shop where tools were made and repaired, and horses shod. He owned a tan vat, where hides were tanned for the community's leather consumption. Most shoes were homemade and repaired.

Abraham Gadson was a carpenter. He was skilled in making buckets, tubs and measures of all kinds. He specialized in making the "piggin", of solid wood, which was a favorite vessel of housewives. He was also a great squirrel hunter.

John Gadson, a real nimrod, loved the sport of hunting and having good dogs. He was an expert of his day in breeding and training good hound dogs. His favorite hounds were named Brack and Link. He was also a preacher and blacksmith.



DESCENDANTS OF GADSON TOWN PIONEERS—Cleo Gadson (left) and brother, Esco, are part of several families of Gadson descent. Cleo lives in Powell. The woman is Esco's wife, Corinne.

At that time, their beasts of burden consisted mostly of oxen. The more fortunate had one mule per family.

The wives were skilled in many things necessary to maintaining a home. They confined their leisure time to quilt piecing, carding, spinning and weaving. The spinning wheel, loom and shuttle were homemade. The cards were store bought. They were sometimes used to comb the children's hair when it became kinky and unruly. All socks, stockings, shawls, scarfs and fascinators were handmade.

There were no stock laws. Cows and hogs roamed at large. Each family had a mark or brand to distinguish their own. The cows were belled and each bell had a different tone to distinguish the herd. Usually the cattle of several families would feed together and be brought home at night for milking. Hogs were not bothered until time to be fattened for pork.

Some food was dried in the summer by placing a scaffold near the house, covered with a sheet and putting the food on the sheet during the hot sunshine hours. Sometimes apples, peaches, plums and pumpkins were cut in rings and hung on a pole to be dried. The same method was used for tobacco.

Meats were also dried-that which could not be salted, by putting it into a small hut, with a smudge fire which caused lots of smoke. It would sometimes be smoked for several days. Small game was sometimes dried by hanging them in the chimney and using only a little fire on the hearth. This was mostly rabbits, squirrels, raccoons and opossums.

Sauerkraut and pickles were homemade. And every housewife made her own soap. Some people who could not afford the usual fats for soap would gather walnuts and use the kernels for necessary grease. They had patience to spare. They were no matches in the early days. If fire went out at home, we had to borrow fire from a neighbor. Kerosene was rare, candles scarce; illumination was of pine wood for country homes.

Our community was of four parts, or divisions: Chestnut Ridge, Cox Town, Gadson Town and Lonesome Dove.

Chestnut Ridge families were: Abraham Gadson, head family, had three sons-Nelson Thomas, Isaac Staples, Thomas Hord, and daughter Lizzy McBee. Their children called their father and mother Paw and Maw. Bailey Morton's family also was of Chestnut Ridge.

Cox Town: Susan Cox had sons, Isaac, with 12 children; William, 12; Frank, 2 boys; and daughter Nannie Galloway, one girl. The Washington family had 7 children.

Gadson Town: Isaac Gadson, head; Elijah, his son had eight children; James Gadson, 14; Birdjon Gadson, 13; Richard Jones, two; Jack Carmichael, nine. The children called their parents Pa and Mamma. Cox Town and Gadson Town are located in Raccoon Valley.

Lonesome Dove, located on Copper Ridge: John Gadson, head; Turner Gadson, four

(Continued on next page)

children, Henry Lee, nine; George Gadson, seven; John Marshall, five; Isaac Gadson, nine; Harriett Cross, six; William Dale, two; Jasper Cross, three. Their children called their father Pap. This is the Gadson Town proper, of the Gadsons who came from Georgia after the civil war.

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Historian's note: While Henry L. Knott's manuscript has of necessity been slightly shortened, it is essentially just as originally written. It is considered an interesting and integral part of Anderson County history. It is used through the gracious permission of Cleo Gadson, and honoring the memory of Henry Lee Knott.

There are several families of Gadson descent still living in the area: Teresa Atwater, Fred Dail, Hazel Moore, Jacksons, Wally Wilkerson, Jim Gadson, Viola Brown, Georgia Thomas, Abraham Gadson, Russell Cross and perhaps a few others.

Cleophus (Cleo) Gadson who lives at Powell, was raised to the degree of Master Mason on Feb. 10, 1945. he has been a member of Gadson Chapel Lodge, No. 33, F & A M of Powell for 25 years.

Dorsey Landrum relives memories

Remembering Briceville, the town that coal made

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. June 3, 1982.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

If you want to know about Briceville when the coal mines were running full time and business was booming in that mountain community, Dorsey Landrum is the man to see. He also knows about the decline of Briceville, which began about 1920 and worsened with the depression of the 1930s. His own memory spans a period of something like 70 years and he remembers a lot of things told him by his father and others about the peak periods of the coal industry in and around Briceville.

Although a small child at the time, he remembers the 1911 Cross Mountain mine disaster which killed 84 miners and he remembers hearing his father tell of the even more destructive Fraterville explosion which occurred in 1902, in which 184 men and boys were killed.

Dorsey and Mrs. Landrum live in a beautiful home facing the railroad in Briceville, with their front yard running right down to the tracks. The same is true of a majority of Briceville homes, because the town is situated in a narrow valley between Walden's Ridge and an eastern spur of the Cumberland Mountains. So the homes have been built either close to the railroad or dirt road, or upon the mountain side. It is an unusual and picturesque place, with practically all the town on one side of the road and railroad, while facing the town and school from the other side is a beautiful white church.



PORTRAIT TIME — This picture was made in 1910 at J. T. Brooks grocery store in Briceville. Dorsey Landrum, who provided information for this week's article, is the boy standing up on the front row. Also pictured are, front row, from left, Pink Sorrels, J. K. Bailey, Will Vowell, Jim White, Lavada White, Henry Keith, Jim Vowell, John Lindsay, Landrum, Arthur Smith, Roy Taylor and Doyle Taylor; back row, C. T. Williams, Charlie Craig, W. R. Keith, John Polston, J. F. Landrum, Charlie Williams, Frank Edwards and Frank Keith. Three of the men, Polston, White and Smith were among the 84 miners killed in the December 1911 Cross Mountain Mine disaster.

The ridges and mountains contain rich veins of bituminous coal which have not yet all been worked out in the more than a century of deep and surface mining. Most of the mines in that area were opened within a few years after the close of the Civil War. While the deep mining has largely been replaced by surface mining, there is "still coal in those mountains." It was estimated by early explorers and prospectors that enough deposits of coal lay beneath the surface to last future generations at least 100 years. Mining and shipping coal from the Briceville area began in earnest about 1870 after the railroad came through.

Sitting on his front porch, Dorsey can look over a large portion of the town and visualize many businesses which flourished in days past, even though the buildings have been torn down.

There was John A. Ayers, who ran a store just across the railroad. The Coal Creek Coal

(Continued on next page)

the commissioners to give a detailed report each quarter of accounts and activities so the citizens of the county would have an idea of what was being accomplished by running a poor farm.

In 1912, it was estimated that $15 per quarter would keep one inmate.

A 10-year-old boy moved to the poor farm with his father in 1915. He was bright and well behaved, and the commissioners moved him to a state educational institution.

In 1920, the county Finance Committee, composed of S. M. Leath, J. H. Underwood and Laura Gamble, reported that the poor farm had $3,618.98 to its credit. They stated they audited the books as prescribed by law, and found them in good condition. Each superintendent, when appointed, was required to make a $500 bond, properly secured.

It was inevitable that as the depression years continued, the number of poor house inmates rapidly increased. For example, in 1931 there were 13 inmates in 1932, 17, 1933, 33, 1935, 36 and 1937, 41.

Although the poor farm continued for several decades, the various local, state and federal relief programs began to care for many needy persons who formerly had been cared for at the poor farm. However, there



T. J. COWARD
(Commissioner)

were always some who did not qualify for any of the jobs or relief programs.

It is always interesting to review the names of the commissioners and superintendents who kept the farm going for so many years.

Commissioners

Calvin Adkins, 1854-68.
John Allen, 1874-89.
George Baker, 1863-64.
Joseph Black, 1845-46.
J. H. Blair, 1947-48.
H. B. Bowling, 1862-63.
Hamilton Bridges, 1957-63.
T. S. Brown, 1906-15.
G. B. Carden, 1888-89.
John Chiles, 1845-54.
James Clark, 1864-67.
J. H. Copeland, 1926-29.
W. C. Copeland, 1956-63.
John M. Coward, 1906-09.
T. J. Coward, 1874-81.
James H. Cox, 1867-68.
R. O. Cox, 1926-30.
E. C. Cross, 1906-10.
J. M. Cross, 1926-30.
R. H. Doane, 1922-23.
W. E. Doane, 1935-36.
W. R. Dail, 1870-75.
E. C. Edwards, 1864-67.
Hugh Farmer, 1936-57.
Levi Foster, 1910-13.
W. A. Freels, 1914-23.
John M. Gamble, 1909-10.
Hugh Garner, 1888-95.
Charlie Gilliam, 1937-41.
W. A. Goldston, 1890-1907.
James Hall, 1854-55.
J. R. Hanes, 1889-95.
C. M. Harrington, 1926-29.
Jeff Hendren, 1886-1906.
M. M. Hibbs, 1884-85.
Geo. P. Hoskins, 1868-70.
Oliver Hoskins, 1878-81.
John Jarnigan, 1845-54.
John Key, 1854-55.
Ritchey Kincaid, 1862-63.
T. S. Kincaid, 1880-89.
C. R. Laughter, 1895-96.
G. B. R. Lea, 1890-1901.
John Leinart, 1863-64.
S. D. Leinart, 1854-55.
Elisha Long, 1864-66.
C. R. Lowe, 1888-95.
J. B. Loy, 1949-59.
J. B. Margrave, 1909-14.
E. D. Marshall, 1902-07.
J. A. McKamey, 1910-11.
John Milligan, 1854-55.
Francis Moore, 1961-62.
James Moore, 1854-55.
S. L. Moore, 1870-94.
Richard Oliver, 1854-55.
F. R. Overton, 1935-37.
S. B. Overton, 1931-34.
W. L. Owen, 1901-21.
William Peak, 1845-54.
C. N. Peoples, 1929-35.
A. E. Peters, 1929-32.
T. J. Prosise, 1868-94.
J. W. Pyatt, 1933-38.
John Rayfield, 1947-57.
P. R. Stuck, 1939-45.
S. S. Tadlock, 1915-23.
Albert Taylor, 1946-47.
Arvel Taylor, 1891-1902.
William Tunnell, 1845-54.
Milas D. Wallace, 1863-64.
W. W. Wallace, 1863-64.
I. H. White, 1886-88.
J. H. Whitson, 1888-89.
S. C. Young, 1954-55.
T. W. Burchell, 1908-09.
Hugh Cox, 1896.
S. L. Crawford, 1907.
Rufus M. Dew, 1895-98.
J. M. Gamble, 1909-13.
S. H. Johnston, 1922-37.
John Key, 1855.
H. L. Lay, 1939-45.
J. B. Margrave, 1909-10.
L. A. May, 1946-63.
John R. Moore, 1913-22.
Fletcher Overton, 1934-36.
J. W. Overton, 1938-39.
J. W. Pyatt, 1904-06.
William Raines, 1880-87.
Charlie Rose, 1928-29.
Simon Scarbrough, 1912.
Ezekial Taylor, 1855-59.
D. N. Webster, 1890-1908.

Early records show

Slaves pledged for debt, given away or sold

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. July 14, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

The following is a list of deeds, or other types of legal slave conveyance found in Anderson County public records. They are either from the records in the office of Joel Meredith, register of deeds, or from early County Court minutes of Anderson County. Most of the ages of the slaves given in the records were prefaced by the word "about." Very seldom was an exact age shown. The address of both grantors and grantees were assumed to be Anderson County unless otherwise specified.

One reason this list has been compiled is for what help it might be to anyone interested in learning about certain persons or ancestors, because genealogical records of slave families are practically nonexistent, they having no surnames until they were freed, when many took the name of their last master.

Grantor	Grantee	Date of Conveyance	Name of Slave	Age of Slave	Consideration
Joseph Sinclair	Ebenezar Bryan	12-18-1801	slave girl		
Wm. Patterson	Wm. McKamey	6-15-1802	girl, Dice	4	
Wm. Patterson	Wm. Mankins	6-15-1802	Alse and Isabelle		

(Continued on next page)

John H. Madison	John Trimble	12-28-1805	Jacob	20	$400
John Sutherland	Saml. Worthington (Bledsoe County)	1-11-1808	Peter	8	270
Michael Robbins	Simon Derrick	10-6-1810	Mose	26	500
John McWhorter	Simon Derrick	7-15-1811	Hannah	17	300
Elizabeth Lucas	Hugh Barton (Trustee for Barton heirs)	7-4-1812	Win, and her	24	Love and affection
			children: Rachel,	6	for her
			Campbell and	4	heirs
			Anderson	1	
Lawrence Pittman Virginia	Geo. Sutherland	9-24-1816	Rachel and child Savory	1	
Jas. W. Glasgow	Jacob Peak	6-23-1821	Boy, Joe	13	
			Girl, Siny	16	$900 total
Wm. Ervin (Roane Co.)	Robert Clough (If note not paid, Sally to be sold to highest bidder)	8-19-1822	Sally	14	To secure $200 note
Benjamin Cobb	Morris Cobb (his son)	6-16-1823	boy,Enoch		Love & affection for son
Wm. Butler	Sarah Whitten Warren Co., Ky.	2-14-1825	girl, Fanny		Love & affection for granddaughter, Sarah
Chas. Y. Oliver	Samuel Dunn	9-15-1825	boy, Buck	10	
Thos. McCorry	Wm. G. Mynatt & Wm. Swan	1-6-1826	Bob	21	To secure note for $500
Knoxville, Trustees (If note not paid, Bob to be sold at courthouse in Knoxville after 10 days notice in newspaper)					
Anthony Montgomery Campbell County	Sam'l. Robbins	8-31-1826	Ann	9	$250
Thos. McCorry	Luke Lea Knoxville	2-17-1828	A black man	27	All to secure a note for $2,007
			Bob	23	If not paid, slaves
			Henry	21	to be sold at
			Stephen	19	Courthouse in Knoxville
			Mary	23	
			Margaret Ann	7 mo.	
			an infant, Mary's child		
Wm. Butler	Jane Rector	10-25-1828	boy, Jim		Love & affection for granddaughter Jane
Wm. Butler	Elizabeth Manley	11-13-1828	boy, Jacob		Love & affection for granddaughter Elizabeth
Henry Butler	Vincent Burnett	12-24-1828	boy, Ben		Love & affection for son-in-law Vincent
James Thompson	Mary Thompson	10-9-1829	Luce and child		Debt -$310
Sterling Smith	Nicholas Massengill	9-20-1829	Meriah and her child	22	350
Henry Butler	Henry Durrett (son-in-law)	1-25-1830	Rachel	7	Gift
Wm. Griffith	Wm. C. Griffith (son)	7-9-1830	George	3	Gift
Hu L. White Knoxville	Wm. Dickson	9-24-1820	Bob	25	$500
Wm. Griffith	Thos. Griffith (son)	12-6-1831	Jacob	13	Gift
Hampden S. Scott	Craven Johnson	12-7-1831	Milly and	36	$288
			child Lurisa	2	
John Scruggs, Sr.	Thos. Scruggs (son, Alabama)	1-9-1830	Reuben	26	$400
Wm. & Susanna Griffith	Anna Hickey, daughter (McMinn County)	1-7-1832	Sally	7	Gift
Wm. Griffith	David Griffith (son, Marion Co.)	1-7-1832	Siras	6	Gift (after Wm's death)
Wm. Griffith	Amos Griffith	1-7-1832	Lewis	15	Gift (after Wm's death)
Wm. Griffith	Wm. C. Griffith	10-19-1832	Adaline	3	$100
Alex. Williams	John B. Crozier	3-30-1830	Lila and her child		$101
John Ashurst Est.	Wm. McKamey	8-31-1831	Anthony	22	$518
Alfred England	Samuel Moore	12-28-1832	Joseph	34	$425
Jeremiah Pate Knox County	Jane Moore (daughter)	12-29-1832	Henry	8	$125
Jeremiah Pate Knox County	Jane Moore (daughter)	12-29-1832	Alse and her children Stephen		Gift

(Continued on next page)

			and Barney		
John M. Lamar	G. W. Churchwell Trustee, Knox Co.	5-2-1833	Vina and her children, Robert Win and Alex	25 7 5 & 2	To secure debt of $906, together with a piece of land, 3 horses, one mare & a colt
Richard Luallen Estate	James Kirkpatrick	3-31-1834	Hannah, Calvin and Nancy	$785	
Richard Luallen Estate	Samuel Moore	2-3-1834	Robert	$350	
Henry Breazeale	Wm. McKamey	4-28-1834	Harriett	12	$325
Isaac Maberry	Poly Maberry (daughter)	10-4-1834	Sary	50	Gift
Isaac Maberry	Daniel Foust	6-13-1835	Sarah		$110

(To be continued)

Black population is low

Slave trading not a big business in Anderson

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. July 21, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part II—Conclusion

There were several merchants in Anderson County who, individually, bought and sold slaves for profit. According to general information, there were at least two slave blocks within the county boundaries, but since they were more or less isolated from the centers of population and trading, business at the slave blocks was not practiced on the large scale of the more thickly populated areas.

The figures below, as shown in The Inventory of the County Archives of Tennessee, No. 1, prepared by the Tennessee Historical Records Survey, WPA, in 1941, give an idea of how few slaves were in Anderson County during the period 1810 to 1860:

1810—260 slaves; 5 free blacks, 3,694 whites.

1830—471 slaves; 26 free blacks; 4,813 whites.

1850—506 slaves; 41 free blacks; 6,391 whites.

1860—583 slaves; 8 free blacks; 6,477 whites.

The following is a continuation of slave conveyances begun in the Clinton Courier-News of July 14. However the two lists will not complete the conveyances on record. It will require more research before all the recorded conveyances are listed. The remainder will appear on a future date.

Grantor	Grantee	Date of Conveyance	Name of Slave	Age of Slave	Consideration
Isaac Griffith Estate	Griffith Amos & Wm. C.	9-3-1831	Boy, Carroll	6	$150
Richard Luallen	Anna Lewallen	5-25-1833	Biddy, and children, George Frank, Susan, William	25	400
Richard Luallen	Milly Luallen	5-28-1833	Patsy	25	400
			Willis	3	
Richard Luallen	Richard B. Luallen	5-28-1833	Alexander	20	350
Thomas Hall, Est.	Ausburn Moore	8-28-1833	Linda	19	350
James Moore	Caleb Moore	10-25-1833	Washington	21	600
Wm. Boteler	Kisiah Boteler (Daughter-in-law)	4-3-33	Fanny		Gift
		(After death of Kisiah, Fanny is to be free)			
Wm. Butler, Sr.	Rhoda Butler (Granddaughter-in-law)	11-20-34	Betsy		Gift
Wm. Butler, Sr.	Betsy Butler (Daughter)	Dec. 1834	Jane and her children, Samuel, King, Viny, Barberry		Gift
Craven Johnson	Jos. M. Ashurst (Administrator)	5-30-1835	Hen	17	$500
			Girl child	11	
Henry Butler	Wm. J. Butler (Son)	10-7-1835	Harrison		Gift
James Scarbrough	Obadiah Ashlock	11-16-1835	Girl, Jonney	8	$375
Nancy Sartin	James Kanady	9-27-1836	Lucinda	16	600
John Miller	Jonathon Thompson	5-21-1840	Mary	15	500
John Gibbs heirs	John Whitson	11-24-1840	Jack, Sarah & child Hamilton		861

(Continued on next page)

John Garner	James Weaver	3-16-1840	Rosna	14	550
Elizabeth McKamey	Barton McKamey	2-1-1841	Levi	36	1500
			Owen	20	
			Louisa	17	
Wm. McKamey	Barton McKamey	4-8-1842	Marriah	19	500
James Cox	James Cox	7-19-1843	Philip	30	$1500
Knox Co.	Anderson Co.		Susan	33	
			Eliza	6	
			Isaac	4	
			Ching	2	
Robert McKamey	Richard Andrews (Trustee) To secure debt	9-1-1843	Samuel Lissie Nelson 1 wagon 12 head horses		1578
Rowland Chiles	James Ross	3-13-1844	Jonathon		
Nancy Ann Butler	Andrew McKamey	7-22-1844	Ellick	12	400
Andrew McKamey	Andrew McKamey, Jr.	8-22-1844	Ellick	13	400
John Garner	Pleasant Garner	9-16-1844	Job, Jonathon, John, Ashley, Rowland, William, Jasper Alexander Nancy, Fanny, Viney, Amelia, Marthy, Marimba, 6 head horses, 20 head cattle, 1 wagon, 7 plows.		Price not given
Barton McKamey	John A. McKamey	11-25-1844	Alexander Owen Hugh Lucy		$1310
F. H. Robertson	Amelia Peck	12-7-1844	Keziah	30	400
Frances Robertson	W. W. Walker	12-8-1844	Eliza	5	200
Ancil & Elizabeth Manley	Elizabeth Wright (daughter)	5-7-1845	Barbery	11	Love & Affection
Wm. & Elizabeth Wright	Alfred Cross	8-8-1845	Jake	18	400
Charles Lewallen	James Kirkpatrick	9-15-1845	Anderson Robert	man boy	700
Moses Duncan	Wm. Smith	5-25-1846	Sam	11	300
Thos. J. Lamar	Edwin F. Hart	9-3-1847	Samuel	50	75
Isaac Freels	Angeline Reed (daughter)	11-9-1847	Mary	10	Love & affection
Jacob Peak	Chloe Griffith (daughter)	11-8-1847	Moses	9	Love & affection
Isaac Freels	Wm. I. Freels	11-16-1847	Elvira Henry	20 14	$1,000

funding are reminiscent of the need, planning and funding of that first consolidated school in the county — Glen Alpine, built to serve the Andersonville, Bethel and surrounding areas.

The Glen Alpine consolidated school was dedicated in February 1914. In the planning and construction stage it had been called the Bethel School. The state superintendent of education at that time was S. H. Thompson. He came from Nashville for the dedication ceremony and was asked to name the new school. Observing the tremendous strides the county had made toward consolidation, he gave the new school its beautiful Scotch-Irish name — Glen Alpine, thus signifying that the new building was the beginning step for Anderson County in ascending from valley to mountain top in educational progress.

The county superintendent in 1914 was Allen C. Duggins, who worked very hard to bring about that first step in consolidation. Just as Bostic had worked very hard toward the present consolidation which, coincidentally also is to be located in the Bethel community. Duggins, now 95 years of age, lives in Greeneville and is pleased tremendously with present educational events in Anderson County. In fact, he well may consider these events a longterm extension and enlargement of his own dream of more than 60 years ago.

Now to continue with some important advancements during Bostic's tenure, in addition to those printed last week:

- Development of Right to Read program.
- Expansion of library services into all schools.
- Securing of additional state and federal monies to supplement basic local and state educational funds.
- Effective utilization of CETA and WIN personnel.
- Reorganization of administrative structure of school system.
- Active participant in TAEC program — driver education, vocational education, gifted program, etc.
- Continual consolidation of schools to be a realistic point.

It's easy to understand how Bostic, the individual, just natually gravitated toward career in school work and became Bostic, the superintendent. He came by it naturally, on down from his father, Howard R. Bostic, who resides in LaFollette, and from other members of his family. Paul's brother, Ralph, is a school superintendent in Frankfort, Ohio. His sister, Helen Bostic Slater, is a school teacher in Ohio. Another sister, Martha Bostic Dossett, teaches in Campbell County. His wife, Bertie? She's in school work too — special education and rehabilitation at Daniel Arthur Center in Oak Ridge.

Mrs. Bostic is the former Bertie Jenkins, a native of Kentucky. She and Paul have three children. Daughter Cheryl is married to Allen Scarboro. Their children are Cristofer and Sean Paul. Paul E. (Jenks) Bostic Jr. is married to the former Dudley Hoskins. Their children are Jenky and Mollie M. Daughter Jo Ellen is Mrs. Stanley Emert.

Bostic is the 26th Anderson County school superintendent. There were no county superintendents until after the Civil War. The schools were previously by district directors.

Photographs of 18 of these 26 superintendents, dating from 1872, have been framed, showing dates of their superintendency. The pictures will be hung on the walls of the Board of Education meeting room on the first floor of the Courthouse. It is hoped they will be on display for families, friends and public to view early in the new year, at which time announcement will be made.

Originally named Tate's Chapel

Asbury United Methodist Church founded in 1865

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. December 29, 1977.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

The present Asbury United Methodist Church in Clinton is the third building on the site. The original structure was built in 1865 of logs, hand hewn by members of the newly-organized church and their pastor, the Rev. John C. Tate. It was named Tate's Chapel in his honor.

Mr. Tate was a former slave. He came to Anderson County from Tate Springs with Dr. Milton Tate. Dr. Tate bought a farm, the management of which he left largely to John. In 1844 Dr. Tate was elected Circuit Court clerk of Anderson County. He often left John to look after the office while making his medical calls to patients.

With his background, when the time came that a portion of the local black population decided to organize a Methodist church, Mr. Tate was a natural choice. He had already decided to become a minister. It is said he preached a simple, direct gospel which changed the lives of many people and inspired them to work diligently hewing logs and building their own church. The cornerstone of that log church bore the date of May 29, 1865 and the name of the pastor.

Mr. Tate was an intelligent and educated person. Over the years he became well known throughout the county. He frequently spoke at political conventions, and people listened to what he had to say. He began to exert considerable influence in local politics and church circles. He was large in physique, an elo-

(Continued on next page)



SECOND STRUCTURE—Asbury United Methodist Church, with members and friends, is shown in 1947 before it was destroyed by fire.

quent speaker and had a strong musical voice. He loved to sing.

Membership and interest grew, and in 1898 a new church was built on the site of Tate's Chapel. The new building was named Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church for Bishop Francis Asbury, the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. It was a beautiful frame building with stained glass windows. The congregation became well known for its choir and congregational singing. This would have pleased Mr. Tate, who had such a love of religious music.

The Asbury singers shared their music with the community. They often sang at other churches, and invited other congregations to visit them. This sharing and visiting is gratefully remembered by many present day residents of the town and county.

After approximately half of a century of service to its members and the Town, the church was destroyed by fire. This was in 1947. Work to rebuild began almost immediately under the leadership of the Rev. C. L. Willis. The present brick building was completed in 1950.

Asbury United Methodist Church is a member of the Oak Ridge District of the Holston Conference. The Rev. G. W. Hollowell is the pastor.

Church officers are Tom McCoy, treasurer; M. S. Weaver, chairman of the Church Building Committee; and Robert King, Sunday school superintendent.

Officers of the Women's Society of Christian Service are Mrs. Dianne McCleary, president; Mrs. Hattie McSwain, vice president; Mrs. Gladys Iker, treasurer; Mrs. Anna Bell Weaver, spiritual leader; and Mrs. Anna Lee McCoy, secretary.

Grandson became journalist

Murmann, immigrant, was early mining engineer

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. January 5, 1978.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Janus, an ancient Latin divinity for whom the first month of the year was named, invokes thoughts of many "firsts" or beginnings. It might be the beginning of America, of Tennessee or Anderson County. Or the beginning of the coal industry in Anderson County.

Janus was most commonly represented on an early Roman coin as having one head with two bearded faces — one looking forward and one looking backward. So it is as we consider history. We look forward eagerly to the future, at the same time looking backward occasionally for information or perhaps guidance.

It was at the beginning of the coal and iron industry in the nation that many immigrants from European countries came to America. Those trained in the coal and iron work usually went to Pennsylvania to find jobs. Some stayed there, and some later came westward to Tennessee, West Virginia and other states as mines and factories were started.

Some, however, had read immigration brochures telling of the rich veins of coal being opened in East Tennessee and left Europe with intent to become a part of these East Tennessee ventures in coal mining.

Gustave Murmann has been selected as being representative of early European immigrants to Anderson County. He was a civil and mining engineer who received his education at some of the leading German universities. He was born March 10, 1843 in Phillipsburg Baden, Germany. He came to Anderson County around 1880, a time when new coal mines were being opened almost daily. He died February 28, 1908 in Coal Creek, Tenn. (now Lake City) and is buried there in Leach Cemetery.

Murmann, was one of the first civil engineers to settle in Anderson County to be, was thoroughly experienced in engineering and surveying in and around coal mines. He was called on as an expert witness in scores of lawsuits over disputed land titles obtained by early mining companies.

He also was knowledgeable as to Tennessee coal mining and safety laws, percentage of loss in weight during actual mining processes, royalties, the best methods of dealing with noxious gases, specific gravity of various types of coal, etc. He was called on many times to give depositions of 100 or more typewritten pages at a time in lawsuits filed either by or against some of the coal operators and owners. He was retained as surveyor and engineer by several large companies, among which were the Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Co. the Black Diamond Co., the Knoxville Iron Co. and others.

During his 28 years in the mining region of the Coal Creek Valley, Murmann made a notable contribution toward straightening out hundreds of land titles which had become confused because of more than one entry having been made on certain specific tracts. He advised owners and operators on many occasions as to the best methods of constructing mine entries, waterways, ceilings, bratices, partitions, fans and furnaces for maximum production and safety.

These were but some of the contributions he and other immigrants made toward the industrial development of Anderson County and the nation. They brought knowledge and experience to a new country when it was needed. And America was a land of opportunity for some of the immigrants. It was a mutual exchange of benefits.

Those early immigrants also left America an impressive heritage in that their descendants are continuing to make worthwhile contributions to the life of their adopted country.

To continue with Gustave Murmann and wife, Anice: their daughter, Mary, married John Hightower. Mary's son (Gustave's grandson) is John Murmann Hightower. Now retired from a brilliant career in diplomatic reporting, he has been teaching journalism at the University of New Mexico.

A University of Tennessee graduate, John M. Hightower worked for the Knoxville News-Sentinel in 1928-29 before joining Associated Press. While a member of the AP he won a Pulitzer Prize for diplomatic reporting in Washington. In 1952 he won the Raymond Clapper Award and the Sigma Delta Chi Award, becoming the first reporter to win two major awards in one year.

Hightower was born in Coal Creek but moved to Knoxville with his family when a child. He spent many boyhood summers in Coal Creek. He once said the thing that stands out in his memory about Coal Creek is "the reality of the small town in America as a complete social unit." He remembered going to the depot to watch the arrival of the morning and afternoon passenger trains as a "great experience."

Gustave's daughter, Mary, still resides in Knoxville. Her grandson (Gustave's great-grandson) also lives in Knoxville. He is a young business man, James W. Trammell of 304 West End Lane.



GUSTAVE MURMANN
County needed his skill

Bend, Speers Ferry and others. But the actual point of crossing the line is elusive and required driving across Clinch Mountain about three times before it was found!

Wallen's Bend is most interesting, most of the land in the bend having apparently been a single extensive holding at one time. In the middle of a very large river bottom field stood two lone grave stones—one of Alfred Wallen, born 1843, died 1910; the other Arminia Wallen, born 1842, died 1911.

Nearby was an empty log house. It looked to be in good condition, but possibly of an early 1800 vintage. The widely curving bend in the river there is picturesque, and there's a spot where at least one large beaver is doing some building. He could be seen busily engaged in his enterprise, swimming swiftly from point to point.

Not far from the bend, and at several other places in Virginia and Tennessee, shallows and rapids could be seen, giving a much different appearance to the river than the smooth, even flow, sometimes deep, that is characteristic of the Clinch above Norris Dam in Tennessee and some other places in Virginia. It was noted that there were also a few places in Virginia which are periodically flooded during high tide, similar to Clinton before Norris Dam was constructed.

Crossing into Tennessee to Hawkins County, the road passed by a store with the sign, Clyde Horton, General Merchandise. A water wheel by the river was a reminder of the Horton Grist Mill, run by Thomas Horton until 1948. Thomas' father, John Horton, owned a number of slaves and lived in a large house by the river with several slave houses nearby. John owned all the land between Clinch Mountain and Clinch River. It was enough acreage that he could give each of his six children a farm out of the holding.

John's son Thomas was the father of Isaac Ellis Horton Sr., who was in the construction business and moved to Briceville, Tenn. about 1918, in connection with the opening of the Slatestone mines. He remained in Briceville, where he and Mrs. Horton reared a large family. Some of these now live in Clinton: Mrs. J. H. (Marie) Hatmaker, Mrs. J. E. (Edna) Hannah, Mrs. William (Sybil) Seiber and William T. Horton. A daughter, Arletta, is deceased and of the sons, Isaac Ellis Jr. lives in the Claxton community, Ray in Maryville and Carl in Charleston.

From Hawkins County it is only a few miles through Claiborne, then into Union, Campbell and Anderson County.

It must have been quite an adventure to make the journey from some parts of Virginia to Tennessee on homemade rafts or flatboats, as was done by several of the first settlers who came to East Tennessee. They would float on down the Clinch until they would decide to stop and make their home in the wilderness which was Anderson County at that time. Some of them stopped in Anderson County around 1800, stayed and became lifelong residents for several generations.

This and the previous article are intended only as a suggestion or reminder of the beauties and wonders of nature which a trip the entire length of the Clinch River offers. It is not to discuss the industrial, commercial, recreational or transporation advantages such a river has to offer the surrounding country; or how it can affect the economic status of the area; or the excitement and interest people experienced years ago of seeing steamboats on the river and the hundreds of rafts carrying logs or raw ore from one point on the river to another. These will be discussed later.

Research is continuing

Role played by black race in county history important

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. November 23, 1979.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

Happenings concerning the black citizens and their part in Anderson County history have appeared from time to time in this historical column. However, what has previously been printed is not sufficient to fully portray the significance of the place the black race is making for itself in contemporary history, or what it has had to overcome in the process, or the revival of public interest in preserving black culture and heritage for future generations.

Neither will recent findings be adequate, but continuing research is being done on this, along with other phases of county life. It is felt that any and all findings, pleasant or unpleasant, give further insight and perspective, and the following will supplement earlier presentations in this column.

Gov. William G. Brownlow sought to protect the black race in post-Civil War reconstruction days. Contained in his plea to the Tennessee General Assembly April 6, 1865, asking them to pass necessary legislation for the protection and government of the emancipated slaves, was this statement: "The negro has had no agency himself in bringing all our troubles, and does not merit unkind treatment at our hands."

Now to go back farther, we know there were some slave owners who were kind to their slaves; some who were unkind. Many times courts and juries were prejudiced; other times persons connected with the courts did not believe in slavery and did what they could to see that black persons brought into court received fair trial and treatment. To illustrate one such case it is necessary to go back into the days of slavery.

Before emancipation the law did not allow slaves to testify in court against a white man, and they were not in court very often because most misdemeanors were handled out of court, many times in the form of a whipping by a master. They were of course prosecuted through the courts for certain types of crime.

It was considered a felony under the law for either a black or white person to harbor a runaway slave. A notable case in Anderson County happened about 15 years before the Civil War. Two white men were indicted for feloniously harboring a runaway slave, and the State undertook to prove that the two men, who were laborers, "did, with force of arms, secrete, conceal, harbor and protect said runaway slave knowing him to be a runaway." The defendants were required to post a $1,000 bail bond, however were not convicted when the case came to trial.

For the purposes of this narrative, which is true, the runaway slave is given the fictitious name of Jim.

Jim is lost here from sight for some time. It is presumed he was returned to his master. Almost two years later we find Jim in court again — this time charged with assaulting a white man with an axe, with intent to commit murder. Another indictment was brought against him simultaneously for allegedly assaulting a second white man with a large club.

Neither of the men allegedly assaulted was Jim's master. However, his owner did not employ counsel for Jim, and two local attorneys were assigned to him as counsel by the judge. Jim was not brought to trial at the first term of court, but his case was continued, because "the Attorney General and the defendant's lawyer felt that he could not come safely to trial at the present term due to public excitement to his prejudice." Jim also had been wounded severely, his condition requiring the advice and assistance of a surgeon.

The Court, having heard of his condition from a local physician,

(Continued on next page)

and being satisfied that his life was in jeopardy, ordered that "the physician have access to the prisoner, consistent with his safe keeping, for the purpose of medical advice and assistance."

At the next term Jim was found not guilty as to the second indictment. He was found guilty by the jury on the first charge and was sentenced "to be hanged by the neck until dead at some convenient place in the vicinity of Clinton on the following Friday between the hours of 12 noon and 2 p.m."

Jim stayed in the Anderson County jail 264 days, at a cost to the county of 37½ cents per day, while his attorneys sought a new trial. A new trial was granted on a technicality, and Jim was taken to the Knox County jail for safe keeping.

When the day came for the new trial there was much excitement in Clinton. After two days trying to select a jury, it became apparent that it was impossible to find 12 men in Anderson County who had not expressed an opinion as to guilt or innocence of the defendant. In order that Jim might be given a fair trial and to avoid a threatened lynching, the venue was changed to Grainger County and the prisoner conveyed there by the sheriff.

After a long and expensive trial, several witnesses having been transported to and from Rutledge, the slave was found not guilty of the alleged crime of assault with intent to commit murder. He was found guilty of running away from his owner, and suitable punishment for that was ordered by the Court.

(Continued)

Anderson Countians participated

State gave endorsement to Colonization Society

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. November 29, 1979.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part II

The American Colonization Society was organized in 1817 and was endorsed by the states of Georgia, Maryland and Tennessee. The society disclaimed any desire to interfere with slavery, its main purpose being to return to Africa such free Negroes as were willing to emigrate.

The organization of the society followed on the heels of a petition from the Virginia Legislature to the federal government that it "obtain an asylum, beyond the limits of the United States, for such persons of color as had to be or might be emancipated under the laws of the commonwealth."

Fifty-four of the 57 local societies were in the slave states. A considerable number of free black persons went to Liberia under the auspices of this society.

It is said that several went from Anderson County, some of whom returned because they did not like it in Africa. Henry J. Forrest's son, Sam, died Sept. 1, 1900. In his obituary, the Clinton Gazette said: "Sam came here from Mississippi. He had spent three years in Liberia, Africa, having gone there through the agencies of the American Colonization Society."

Though slave holding was not general in Anderson County, due to the nature of the land and the character of the people who settled that land, the county does have a history of some slaves and their descendants who elected to remain here. It is a proud heritage these descendants have.

Documented information is scarce. A 1784 law provided that for the sale of a slave to be legal, it had to be in writing. Many deeds of conveyance for slaves from one owner to another are in the Anderson County deed books. More than 200 of these were read and noted during research. The highest price found for one slave was $1,625.00.

Especially interesting were the given names of black children born in slavery. It seems that care was given in selecting names which either had a special meaning or were pleasing to hear. For instance, many Biblical names were used, such as Abraham, Enoch, Hannah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Zachriah. There was a James Buchanan, of political significance. Two children in the same family were named Anderson and Campbell, presumably for the two counties.

Others, especially the girl children, had names which were simply pleasant sounding or lyrical. Some of these were Alexandra, Chloe, Charlotta, Drusilla, Evaline, Lila, Lissy, Rinda, Sawney, Sylvia, Winney. The parents, not having a surname of their own, perhaps gave special thought to first names for their children.

Some Clinton residents, or former residents, whose parents or grandparents were born slaves, through their reminiscenses, added much to the history of Anderson County's black residents.

The late Oscar Jarnigan's father was Smith Jarnigan, born a slave in the Clinton family of Jarnigans who lived in the large antebellum brick house, which formerly stood on the corner of Main and Broad Streets where the Clinton branch of the Bank of Oak Ridge is now located. Oscar's mother was a woman from Union County, who lived only one day as a slave, having been born the day before freedom. Oscar was the oldest of nine boys. He said his father used to tell him and his brothers about life as a slave as he remembers his father telling him.

Oscar said that from the things his father told him, local race relations were for the most part easy and friendly and that there was a feeling of family affection between black and white. He said the Jarnigan slaves were well treated and the young boys always had horses to ride around the place when their chores were finished.

He said the Jarnigan (Peak) house was indeed built by slaves, the bricks most likely being baked on the place and made from clay which they dug.

Oscar's father, Smith, was a fine musician. He played the accordion and sang. In later life he read a lot, his reading matter mainly consisted of the daily newspapers, the Bible and his song book which was an old-timey book with shaped notes.

His sister, Lizzie, taught music. His father, Smith, was a cook in the Union army, having been conscripted, along with two brothers, Anderson and Henry, who also served in the Union Army.

Oscar remembered well the Leach hanging on the Courthouse lawn. He was a child and played around the Courthouse often with other children. He said Chick Foster and some other men began building something one day which interested the children, and they kept asking what it was. Chick told them it was something for them to play with. Later they found out it was a scaffold, complete with trap door, cotton rope and all, and that there was going to be a hanging.

He said his father and mother did not wish to see it, but allowed the children to watch from across the street. He remembered the details very vividly and how the children reacted to such a tragic event.

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12-10-1964. Eddie Taylor, Clinton native, was billiards champion of the world, having won the International Pool Championship in Johnson City, Ill.

In Army during Indian wars

Clinton school was named for Negro, Green McAdoo

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. December 13, 1979.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part IV

The building now occupied by the Green McAdoo Day Care Center was formerly the Green McAdoo School. The school was named for the late Green L. McAdoo, a respected and loved citizen of Anderson County.

Green served 20 years in the Army with the 24th Infantry and saw much Indian fighting. In 1878 he was at Ft. McIntosh, Tex.; in 1887 at Ft. Sill, Indiana Territory. In 1890 he was stationed at Ft. Grant, Arizona Territory.

On June 20, 1890, he wrote his mother, Mrs. Lottey McAdoo of Clinton, about Indian fighting on the front: "I haven't much time to write for there is much excitement in the camp today. All the troops are out again. They are in a fight with the Indians who have been so much trouble this spring. That is the way it is here on the front—fighting all the time."

Later, when he was back home, he went to a circus occasionally. He would become very excited at the staged Indian fighting, and told his family, "This is just the way they did it in the territory."

Other times when he was away in the Army he would write the county trustee to send him the amount of taxes he owed on his Anderson County property, saying he loved his land back home and did not want to get behind in paying his property tax.

Green was about 40 years old when he returned home from the Army. Soon after his return he was employed by the Anderson County Court as custodian of the Courthouse. This was in 1896 and the Courthouse was only six years old. He was very proud of the new building, said to be the second finest courthouse in Tennessee at the time, and did his best caring for the building during his tenure which lasted 25 years.

His brothers were Charlie and John. Their father was Jack McAdoo, slave of the John McAdoo family who were among the first settlers in Anderson County.

Most of the above information about Green was given in a interview several years ago with Mrs. Sanford (Louraine McAdoo) Weaver.

Mrs. Weaver's mother was Clarissy Young McAdoo. As a small child Clarissy lived about 20 miles below Augusta, Ga. About all Clarissy could remember about life in Georgia. Mr. Weaver said, was that one day she was playing by the side of the road with a boy named Toby. She did not know whether he was a brother, cousin, neighbor, or who he was. She said while they were playing some men came along and stopped to talk to the children. One of the men took a fancy to Clarissy, picked her up, put her on his horse behind him, and carried her to Fincastle, Tenn.

A little later she became the property of Elizabeth Woodson, who married Judge D. K. Young Sr., owner of the large Eagle Bend Farm near Clinton. So Clarissy became a slave in the Young family. Sometimes when Mrs. Young became vexed with her, she would say, "Clarissy, if you don't do better, I am just going to put you in my pocket." As a child Clarissy always wondered how in the world her mistress could put her in a pocket, and it was not until she became grown she realized her mistress meant, she, Clarissy, would be sold and the money pocketed.

When asked how the slaves held church services, Mrs. Weaver said she had been told they were mostly held in cabins. Being very fearful and superstitious by nature, they had the idea (whether there was any foundation or not) that the white folks didn't like for them to hold services. So, in order that their singing and chanting would not be heard outside the cabin, they would build up a hot fire and put a big kettle of water on. This they kept boiling so as to absorb or take up the sound. They did their own preaching. She said they could never have survived some of their ordeals without deep faith and religion.

It has been told that some of the white folks also didn't want the slaves to learn to read and write, and the following incident was related: It was the job of a certain black youth to take the white children to school in a wagon. Each day, to and from school, the children taught the Negro boy everything they had learned at school, furnishing him with slate and pencil or paper, which he hid in his family's cabin. Eventually this was discovered and the boy was sold.

Mrs. Weaver recalled that Charlie Moore, a former slave, had a cobbler shop on Hendrickson St., close to where the Ghormley residence is now located. She said a Kirkpatrick owned the land where the Green McAdoo School was built. A school for black childen was formerly located in the community close to the Sanford Weaver farm but was discontinued many years ago. Blanch Goode taught there in the school; also Beulah Jarnigan Hayden.

An outstanding educator in the black school system of Anderson County was Miss Laura McAdoo. She was highly esteemed as a teacher, church worker and citizen of Clinton. She and her father lived in a house which they planned and had built. The exact date has not be ascertained but several people believe it was in the early 1900s. It is the large attractive white, two-story, house situated at 405 Carlock St. It faced toward Moore Street, from which it may be seen. With its wide bay windows, spacious rooms, high ceiling, ornamental wood mantels, doors and other features of the era, it is a dignified, gracious residence.

After the McAdoos, the E. O. Walkers lived in the house for several years. Walker was proprietor of a rolling store and a neighborhood grocery store, also known as the Disney store.

It was then purchased in the 1940s by the late Squire and Mrs. J. W. Pyatt. Pyatt was active in Anderson County public life for many years, serving on the Board of Education and the County Court. The house is now owned and occupied by Sarah Pyatt and Nannie Bell Stooksbury. It contains antique furniture brought by the Pyatt family from their home in the Edgemoor community.

(Continued)

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Also used for church services

Freeman donated land in 1869 for Whittier School

This is another in a series of historical articles about Anderson County and her people. December 20, 1979.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part V [Conclusion]



BEAUTIFUL HOME—Miss Laura McAdoo tends flowers in the backlawn of the home on Carlock St. she and her father planned and built. The photo was made in the 1920s.

On May 1, 1869, Andrew Freeman of Anderson County executed a deed conveying 1¼ acres of land to the school directors of the Eighth Civil District of Anderson County. The directors were George W. Leath, Mahlon Hibbs and Pleasant N. Freels.

The land was described as being "located in the 8th Civil District, on the west side of the road from Clinton to Scarbroughtown where it crosses the Pine Ridge at the Clinton nine mile post by the grave of J. L. Scarbrough on the opposite side of the road, containing 1¼ acres, and being the lot on which a school house to be known as the Whittier School House is now being erected."

The deed further stated that "Andrew Freeman is desirous of donating a site for a school house for the colored children and colored people of Anderson County, and for a place of religious worship for the colored people of the county. . . and as a token of his desire for the religious instruction, education and elevation of his race. . . and for the sole and exclusive use and benefit of the colored people of Anderson County." Charles D. McGuffey witnessed the execution of the deed.

Apparently very few records of educational activity of that era were preserved, and no other record than the deed has been found regarding the operation of the Whittier School.

One of the later schools for black students was Woods Chapel, located in the old Fourth Civil District of Anderson County. Viola Gadson was teaching there in 1913. The family names represented that year at Woods Chapel were Carter, Evans, Griffith, Lee, O'Neal, Staples and Taylor. Twenty-five pupils were enrolled, from first through sixth grades.

The black race of Anderson County has always been active in politics. The July 20, 1888 issue of the **Clinton Gazette** noted this fact and listed the delegates from Anderson County who attended the Republican state convention in Nashville that year which included Henry Forest Jr. Other delegates were Capt. John Chumbley, H. C. Slover and W. O. Thomas.

It was noted in the Dec. 14, 1893 issue of the **Clinton Gazette** that the Clinton Colored Republican Club was active, with E. F. Myers as president and E. H. Forest as secretary. It would meet and then announce through the press the candidates it would support in the elections.

For several decades the designation "colored" was shown on Anderson county tax lists. In 1898 there were 147 black citizens who paid taxes in Anderson County—either property or poll tax, or both. The following information is interesting, in that is shows the distribution of the black population throughout the county at that time. A review of the following lists, when considering the location and boundary lines of the old civil districts, gives some insight and understanding as to how and why the black citizens were living where they did when these tax lists were compiled.

District 1: Ten taxpayers. Two paid poll tax only and eight paid tax on property with the acreage shown as follows: Doc Epps 8 acres, Martha Fain 50, Samuel Miller, 50, John Neal 40, Jacob Redmon 75, Henry Underwood, 18, Lucinda Warwick 18, Mary Weaver 20.

Second District: None.

Third District: One poll tax.

Fourth District: Three poll tax; William Cox 40 acres.

Fifth District: Seventy-nine poll tax; eight owned town lots—Reuben Baker, Thomas Black, B. F. Barrett, Wesley Cooper, James Garrison, Thomas Prater, Daniel Ross and Joseph Lett. Because the Fifth District comprised a large portion of the coal mining district around Coal Creek and Briceville, presumably many of those shown as paying poll tax only were living in company-owned houses or were transient workers.

Sixth District: Seven paid poll tax only. Hannah King paid tax on one town lot.

Seventh District: Four poll tax only; Dannie Reynolds, one town lot.

Eighth District: Four poll tax.

Ninth District: Four poll tax.

Tenth District: None.

Eleventh District: None.

Twelfth District: Two poll tax.

(Continued on next page)

He regularly led the choir at his church and was in great demand for leading the singing at revivals.

The 1910s and '20s were the days of traveling revivals and evangelists. It was the custom of Magnet Knitting Mills to present a box of men's or women's Clinton-made hosiery to the evangelist and each member of his staff of assistants and musicians. This was always done at the last session of each revival held in Clinton.

Dave Richards was always delegated to make the presentation. He enjoyed it and was indeed a perfect company representative to do it, because of his cordiality and sincerity.

He was a member of the Clinton Band, an enthusiastic booster of the annual county fair, and in many other ways served as a volunteer ambassador of good will for the Town of Clinton, which he loved.

Dave Richard died Oct. 21, 1931. He was survived by his wife about 20 years. Like her husband, Mrs. Richards participated in many church and civic affairs.

Their daughter, Helen, and son-in-law, Symmes Burnett, live in Lakeland, Fla.

Holston formed in 1824

Early Methodism glimpses gleaned from publications

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. June 19, 1980.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

The evolution of the Methodist Church in America, which included the separation into north and south divisions, the forming of separate churches for black and white races and other facets of church development in a new country form an interesting part of our religious heritage.

The following excerpts from several early Methodist publications were selected because they concern Anderson County residents and churches. They also illustrate how local history is an intricate and component part of national history in its entirety.

In 1807 all Tennessee Methodist churches belonged to the Western Conference, which embraced the vast tract of land lying west of the Allegheny Mountains as far as was settled by the whites, except the Monagahela District which then belonged to the Baltimore Conference.

The Western Conference met for the last time Oct. 1, 1811 in Cincinnati. At the General Conference in New York May 1, 1812, the Western Conference, which had been in existence for 10 years, was divided into two conferences, the Tennessee and the Ohio, with the Holston country falling into the latter.

In 1824 the Tennessee Conference was divided into two conferences—the Tennessee and the Holston. The Holston Conference comprised East Tennessee, southwest Virginia, western North Carolina, with small portions of Georgia, Alabama and West Virginia. Anderson County is in the Holston Conference.

John Tunnell was one of the celebrities of the first conference held west of the Alleghenies. He was a Methodist preacher in a family of Baptists. He was a brother of William Tunnell, Baptist preacher who came to Tennessee as a young man and settled near Robertsville in Anderson County. John was a personal friend of Bishop Asbury and traveled as a missionary under him. He traveled through eight of the 13 states, organizing Methodist churches and classes. John had expected to return to England with other English ministers but died before the trip took place.

Bishop Asbury described entertainment in the Holston country in the early 1800s, as consisting largely of running, jumping, wrestling, chicken fighting, dancing, fiddling and singing. He also described how neighbors helped each other in house raising, log rolling and at harvest time. He mentioned the division of opinion in those days as to temperance:

"In the early settlement of the country the people usually made a picnic of log rollings, house raisings and harvesting. The neighbors worked gratis, but sumptuous dinners were prepared, and intoxicating drinks flowed freely to stimulate activity and to contribute to the social pleasure and hilarity of the laborers."

There were some people, however, Bishop Asbury said, "who were pioneers in the cause of temperance, and demonstrated that logs could be rolled, houses erected and harvests reaped, without whiskey."

In 1845 a resolution was adopted by the Methodist Church, opposing the introduction of instrumental music into the churches and the renting of pews, the latter being though unsuitable in a church proposing to preach the gospel of the poor.

The following paragraph is from the **Annals of Southern Methodism** for 1856:

"The Rev. A. M. Goodykoontz of the Holston Conference departed this life on Sunday morning, November 15, 1856. He lived in Anderson County, but was buried in Abingdon, Virginia, where he died. He was married in 1847 to Mary A. Kirkpatrick, sister of Richard T. Kirkpatrick, a professor at the University of Tennessee." The Kirkpatricks lived on Hinds Creek near the Clinch River, in Anderson County.

The **Holston Methodist**, dated June 1, 1878, printed a letter from Andersonville by C. J. Moore, telling of a new church erected at Andersonville by the trustees of the M. E. Church, South, which was to be dedicated soon. Moore said, "The class of this, our church, numbers some 25 members, and if it be said they will bear a favorable comparison with the same number of other church members in point of moral Christian character, it will hardly provoke criticism."

Moore's letter to the publication also told about a Sunday school board meeting: The third session of the Anderson County Sunday School Board was held on the 10th and 11th instant and was one of great interest. There were reports from only six schools, but the proceedings were participated in by many Sunday school workers and friends from Knox and Campbell Counties and were marked by manifest harmony and zeal. Gen. Cullom of Clinton delivered a telling address to the delight and edification of the assembly. A Children's Jubilee was held on Friday night. Other addresses were made by J. G. Hall, Rev. Emery and Judge Young.

About this same time W. G. C. Cunningham of Abingdon, Va., in an article in the **Holston Methodist**, had the following to say about local leaders in the early churches:

"In organizing early churches, the local preachers, exhorters and class leaders did as much to build up the church in many localities, as the traveling preachers. A history of the itineracy and labor of the traveling preachers only is not a complete history of the church."

(To be continued)

Tate of Clinton spoke out

Early publications touch on politics, race distinction

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. June 26, 1980.

KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part II

It seems that during the Civil War era and afterward, some of the churches found it necessary to speak out on two subjects which had been circumvented to some extent in public speaking and denominational publications. These subjects were politics and problems between the black and white races.

The following excerpt is from the **Annals of Southern Methodism** for 1856, edited by Rev. Charles F. Deems, D. D., of Nashville, in which the subject of separate churches for the two races was being discussed, under the title of Our People of Color.

"In this conference, as in St. Louis and many other western conferences, the colored people mostly worship together with the whites, in the same houses and at the same hours. There is in the Holston Conference one colored mission, serving Knoxville and Muddy Creek, with 402 members, and in which 100 children are instructed."

John C. Tate, a black preacher in Clinton, wrote the following letter to the **Methodist Advocate**, which was also reprinted in the **Holston Methodist** publication dated Feb. 8, 1879:

"Clinton, Tenn. January 5, 1879

Perhaps the time has come when the providence of God, our Heavenly Father, has suggested the propriety of separate conferences, which, in the judgment of our brethren generally, seems to be desired, and that the same take effect at our next annual conference, at Knoxville. Perhaps there will never be a time when we can leave with a better state of general good feeling between the two races.

"We shall not go out feeling that we are being pushed out by our white brethren, but our judgment leads us to see the propriety of this course and that our interest, as well as the interest of the entire work, demands the action of the conference in this direction. We feel that the time has come when we can depart in peace, for eyes have seen the salvation of God. We shall leave our prayers and best wishes with our white brethren, and shall long remember the taunts and insults they have borne on our account.

"Where shall we go? To whom shall we be attached? Perhaps we shall hear from others soon."

In the **Holston Methodist** Volume II, of 1867, was a paragraph of both political and religious significance:

"Governor Brownlow has appointed David K. Young Sr., a Democrat, a judge of a new judicial circuit composed of Anderson, Campbell, Scott and Morgan counties, over a Republican who was a personal friend of Brownlow who had spoken and voted for him as a candidate for Governor. Young had voted for Etheridge for Governor over Brownlow, but Young's pure moral character commended him to the Governor for this responsible position."

In the **Holston Methodist**, Volume VII, Sept. 21, 1978, the Rev. J. R. Payne contributed the following paragraph about Liberty Church in Anderson County:

"The writer went over to Clinton Saturday evening, September 14th, and found Brother E. L. Barrett, preacher in charge, at Liberty, a new church three miles below Clinton, engaged in a revival. I went over with Brother John Coward, son of Richard C. Coward, deceased, and on the trip to the church we discussed incidents connected with the writer's work on this circuit in 1863. There was no church here at Liberty then—now there is a neat frame house with 50 members.

Throughout these early publications of the Methodist Church were references to the camp meetings which flourished during the middle and latter portions of the 19th century, particularly in the South. In the **Holston Methodist**, Volume VII, No. 25, 1878, the Rev. Frank Richardson had written a letter as presiding elder, in which he mentioned a camp meeting in Anderson County:

"I have recently been to Sinking Springs Camp Meeting. Sinking Springs Campground is on the Clinton Circuit, over which Brother Barrett exercises ecclesiastical dominion. The camp meeting recently held was a success. Brothers Kirkpatrick, Payne, Lee, Young, Carnes and Barrett preached the word. The spirit of the Lord came upon the people and many were converted and added to the church. Brother Barrett is abundant in labors, and is having a hard fight with hard times over a parsonage enterprise."

The **Holston Methodist** of 1872 contained a recipe for molasses gingerbread, which is delicious and worth passing on to the ladies of the 20th century:

1¼ pounds of flour
½ pound butter
6 ounces brown sugar
½ pint molasses
½ ounce ginger
1 egg
½ t. soda
Flour until you can roll.

There is much good reading in these publications, with an occasional reference to Clinton, Anderson County or some of our ancestors.

Legislation is starting point

Information on black race important history segment

This is another of a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. August 13, 1981.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

It is a never-ending task—that of exploring, finding and studying documents, books and personal interviews concerning history of the black race in Tennessee and Anderson County.

Tennessee having been a border state as regards slavery, and East Tennessee being outside the plantation area of the state, the number of slaves in East Tennessee (and Anderson County) was negligible compared to that of Middle and West Tennessee.

A good starting point for this type of research was found to be territorial and state laws regarding slavery, free persons of color, slave owners and others. This is an important part of black history.

From 1784, beginning with territorial legislation, it was the law that "all sales of slaves shall be in writing, attested to by at least two witnesses, or otherwise shall not be deemed valid."

Beginning in 1794 it was the law that "all Negroes, Indians, mulattos and all persons of mixed blood, descended from Negro or Indian ancestors, to the third generation inclusive, whether bonded or free, shall be incapable to be witnesses, except against each other."

In 1831 the state of Tennessee passed a law prohibiting "free persons of color" to emigrate into the state, under the following penalty:

"Such persons shall be tried before the grand jury or circuit court of the county where he or she may attempt to reside, and if convicted shall be fined ten to fifty dollars, to the use of the county, and shall be sentenced to not less than one nor more than ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary." If at the end of the sentence such person or persons who should refuse to leave the county, unless delayed by sickness or unavoidable accident, would be liable to indictment as before, and on conviction, the penitentiary term would be doubled.

Under the same law, any assemblage of slaves in unusual number or at suspicious times and places not authorized by their owners was subject to whipping, not to exceed 25 lashes.

This law also provided that no slave could go about the country under the pretext of practicing medicine, under penalty of 25 lashes, if convicted.

Another provision of the 1831 law was that any person delivering to the jail or magistrate any runaway slave was entitled to the sum of $5.00, to be paid by the owner of the slave.

Another provision of this law was that patrollers (called "pattyrollers" by slaves) and searchers who faithfully served to terms of three months were exempt for terms of 12 months from military muster, working on roads and searching in their respective bounds during the day as well as night, and they had power to arrest and punish all slaves found under suspicious circumstances off their masters' property without written passes.

An 1832 act prohibited any stage contractor, owner or driver, or captain of any steamboat or other water craft, to receive or carry from any place in Tennessee to any other place either in or out of the state any black or colored person unless said person could produce the certificate of the clerk of the court or of the county from which the stage or boat was to depart. The certificate was to show that said colored person was free, or a slave had to carry written permission from his owner. Penalty for this offense was, on conviction, a fine of from $200 to $500 and imprisonment of from three to six months.

In 1844 an act was passed to authorize the mayor and aldermen of any incorporated town in Tennessee to employ runaway slaves committed to the jail of the county for the public improvement of the town. The town officials were required to keep on file an accurate description of each slave so received, to be advertised in the event of escape. They also were to execute a bond of the town, payable to the sheriff of the county, in double the value of such slaves,

(Continued on next page)

A Civil War episode

A narrative about 'Jake' to enrich county black history

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. September 3, 1981.

KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part IV

Through courtesy of Mrs. Harry L. (Maurine) Owen, the following narrative has been added to the collection of black history items which enrich the general history of the county. It is an excerpt from A Family History, which had its beginning in England with Richard Owen, born approximately 1750. It was largely compiled by a descendant, James Richard Owen, with assistance from J. R. Owen, Jr., and other members of the family. It also contains genealogical information about the Young, Hall, Brazel and other related families. The excerpt follows:

JAKE

W. L. Owen was a very small boy, barely 5 years old, in August 1863. He had begged his mother to allow him to go to the mill with Jake, taking corn and bringing back meal to make bread. It took a lot of bread for them - the mother and six children, an uncle and aunt, and six colored slaves, including Jake, although they were never spoken of as slaves, but as servants.

The little boy waited impatiently while Jake went up the valley to a little cove where the last two oxen were hidden from the marauders. Then the oxen were hitched to the wagon and he was off with Jake to the mill. The mill was only a mile away; the road went past one farm house, the dwelling of a free Negro who owned around a hundred acres of land. On the next farm was the mill powered by water from a creek channeled into a flume. While the miller ground the corn, Jake took the little boy around to the upper side of the mill and showed him how the water falling on a wheel made it turn so that it would turn the millstone and grind the corn into meal. When the meal was ready and loaded on the wagon, they were on their way back home.

Suddenly, as they were about half way home, a squadron of blue-coated calvary overtook them. A non-commissioned officer yelled "Turn around nigger, you're going with us!" Jake's face turned pale as he answered, "Master, please, I got to go home and take this meal so we'll have some bread." "That don't matter," was the unsympathetic reply. "We want you and the oxen, too." Some of the calvary men began crowding around the oxen.

An officer came up. "What's the matter?" Jake made his plea again. "Master, my wife and children and the others need this meal. And, besides, I got to take little Willie home to his ma. She looking to me to bring him home. He too little to go by hisself." "All right, Corporal, send four men with him to take the meal and the boy, and bring him and his team and wagon back with you, Hurry!"

That was the first time Union Soldiers had been seen in that community during the war. Burnsides' Army Corps had moved in from Middle Tennessee and occupied Knoxville, and his raiders had ridden out in every direction. They took Jake with them, and he was not seen or heard from by the family until the winter of 1865-1866. He was a strong field hand and had a wife and two children, about 8 and 10.

During this two and a half years, all the other Negroes, including Jake's wife and children, on hearing of their freedom, had headed for Knoxville where the big man of the "Freedom Army" stayed and was believed to be giving away food and clothes and land and mules.

One cold, rainy evening in December 1865, Jake stumbled to the Owen kitchen door. He was in rags and almost frozen. He was practically barefoot, and his feet were bleeding. He came in saying, "Jake come home, Missy. Jake got away!"

He tottered to a place beside the kitchen stove. They fed him, and he wolfed his food like a starving man. He lived a few years but never regained his strength or his memory. He could do little jobs around the house and the yard, help feed the livestock, and in summer take the cows to the pasture in the morning and bring them back in the evening. But most of the time he would sit silently by the kitchen fire. Mrs. Owen said that sometimes when she would tell Jake to go get the cows from the pasture, he wouldn't move. The next time she would tell him, he would answer "I hear 'em comin' Missy. Don't you hear old Buck a 'bawlin?"

After a few years, Jake died and was buried in the graveyard on the farm. No one yet knows where he was during the two and a half years, or when or what he got away from.

(To be continued)

After slavery—what next?

Freed Negroes were faced with many difficult decisions

This is one of many historical articles on Anderson County and her people. September 10, 1981.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part V-Conclusion

Only those who had been in bondage as slaves could know what decisions were to be made when freedom came, and how difficult the making. No matter how joyous the long-awaited day was, there were problems to be solved and decisions to be made by people who had not heretofore been allowed to make decisions.

As one ex-slave said to an interviewer: "Mister, if you ain't never had a chance to decide anything, and you ain't got no money, no land, no house or nothin'—not even a name, what are you gonna do?"

According to available records, many slave owners offered to give their emancipated slaves plots of land on which to live. Others offered their former slaves a chance to stay on the farm or plantation and work the crops on the share plan. Others gave the freed slaves some money with which to get started out in a new life.

Some of these offers were accepted. Others were rejected by those newly-freed men desiring to take their families to get a fresh start in a new locality. Inevitably, some went north with dreams of earning much more money and getting a better chance there than they could in the South.

When it came to choosing a surname, many ex-slaves chose the family name of their owners at the time of freedom. Others selected the name of previous owners, while some chose names simply because they liked them.

(Continued on next page)

Anderson County being a segment of the slave-owning Southern states, naturally the pattern of rehabilitating former slaves followed that of other Southern localities. Today some of the county's very fine black population are descendants of slaves owned by Anderson Countians of pre-Civil War days. When freedom came, they chose to stay in this county and take the family names of their former owners.

It probably will never be known what happened to some of the county's black population after freedom; neither will space permit including here all that is known. It is known that a good many of our present black citizens are descendants of Anderson County slaves. They are making definite contributions toward a better Anderson County and taking their place in many fields of endeavor.

Perhaps the following list of black taxpayers in the year 1898 (property or poll tax or both) will be of interest. It was taken from the official tax record of that year and probably included a large percentage of the heads of black families at that time:

Isaac Adams, Joseph Allen, Reuben Baker, James Barnes, B. F. Barrett, James Battles, Floyd Baxter, George Bedford, T. D. Bischard, Austin Black, Thomas Black, William Black, Rees Borum, James Bowers, William Bowling, Sidney Boyd, Henry Branscom, William Brazelton, John Brown, Joseph Brown.

David Chiles, Wesley Cooper, Charles Cox, Peter Cox, William Cox, William Crusher, Samuel Dance, James Davidson, J. F. Davis, William Dizer, Esam Dockings, Doc Epps, Albert Evans, Martha Fain, John Francis, Elisha Freeman.

Joseph Gass, Henry Gadson, James Garrison, James Garrett, Bruce Gibbs, Andrew Glascock, George Griffith, John Griffith, Press Griffith, James Hamilton, Charles Hammitt, Walter Harris, John Hatmaker, Thomas Hawkins, William Horshaw, Dude Howell, Solomon Ivy.

Robert James, R. B. James, Hugh Jarnigan, Crocket Jennings, Horace Johnson, Isaac Johnson, J. N. Johnson, John Johnson, Reuben Johnson, Sam Johnson, Walter Johnson, William Kincaid, Hannah King, Thomas King, George Kirk, James Lamb, David Lea, Robert Lea.

Frank Martin, Robert Massey, David Masterson, James Means, Joseph Miller, Samuel Miller, Richard Mitchell, Ed Moore, George Moore, Robert Moore, Henry Mosley, W. C. McClain, John McCurry, William McKamey.

John Neal, A. Nelly, Preston Pate, Sam Paten, Will Peak, Osborn Perry, Thomas Prater, Henry Pulliam, Jack Redick, Jacob Redman, Arthur Reed, John Reinhart, Robert Reinhart, Fannie Reynolds, Robert Rhea, George Rogers, Joseph Rogers, Daniel Ross.

William Sadler, Sam Scruggs, Oliver Shadden, William Sharp, William Shearl, Ned Shelton, Joseph Sheilds, W. J. Sims, Silas Smith, George Spears, William Spears, William Slaughter, George Smith, Rufus Taylor, Charles Underwood, Henry Underwood, Lewis Walker, Robert Wallace, Lucinda Warwick, George Washington, Albert Watson, Mary Weaver, Henry Whitson, William Whitson, Mack Wilburn, George Williams, James Williams, John Williams, William Williams, Elijah Williams, Joseph Yett, William Young.

Going back to post-Civil War Reconstruction days, we find Gov. William G. Brownlow sought to protect the Negro. Following is an excerpt from his message to the Tennessee Legislature April 6, 1865:

"Some legislation is nessary for the protection, government and control of the emancipated slaves among us. When this war is over, a portion of those who fought to perpetuate slavery will show the emancipated slave no quarter, and especially that class of slaves who have been rude or violent toward their former owners. What the character of this legislation of shall be I leave to the good sense, prudence and reflection of the members of the General Assembly to determine . . .The Negro has had no agency himself in bringing about all our troubles, and does not merit unkind treatment at our hands."

This will close the present series of historical articles about Anderson County's black history, but work will go on, digging out facts, names and happenings, in order to get a more complete picture. Any bits of information or sources to be researched concerning the county's black history will be welcome and will be added to what has already been compiled.

Was called Depot St. in 1926

Here's a glimpse of Town's Market Place of long ago

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. September 17, 1981.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

Clinton's Market Place, or Market St., as it has been known for several decades, was Depot St. in 1926. It was the hub of the Town's business area, everything revolving around the steady stream of freight and passenger trains going through. The trains discharged and picked up passengers, mail, freight and express.

It was about that time, though, that motor freight and passenger service was beginning to make inroads into rail transportation. The Dixie Highway (north and south Route 25-W) was almost finished.

It is interesting to note 1926 advertisements of some of the Depot St. business houses.

Two banks were located on opposite sides of Depot St. — the

(Continued on next page)

TEACH YOUR DOLLARS TO HAVE MORE CENTS
BY TRADING WITH
CONNER BROTHERS HARDWARE
CLINTON, -:- -:- TENNESSEE
"BIG JOE" and "LITTLE REZ"
"THE MEN WITH CONSCIENCE"
Anything in the Hardware Line from a Shoe Tack to a Mogul Engine. If we haven't got it we'll get it
See Big Joe for Big Jersey Black Giant Chickens

See Little Rez for Little Game Chickens
OUR TRADE MARK
Hardware is Our Sideline
Game Chickens Our Specialty

Kenneth Selgworth, Mrs. Charles Stansberry, Mrs. Charles Sweet, Arville Taylor, Dr. J. S. Taylor, Mrs. Raymond Taylor, Mary Trevethan Leath, Mrs. H. V. Wells, Jr., Mrs. Harlan Whitehead, Lucinda Yarnell, D. K. Young, Jr., Mrs. D. K. Young, Etta Young, Jamie Young, W. E. Young.

The Anderson County Board was administrative agency prior to the formation of the Clinch-Powell Region in 1946. Regional directors have been Emma Suddarth 1946-52, Helen Kittrell 1953-69, Larry T. Nix 1969-71, Barbara Dyer (acting) 1971-73, Rene' Jordan 1973-76, Barbara Dyer 1976-80, Jerry Norton (acting) 1980-81, Linda Blomeke, present director.

Regional Staff: Ruth Milligan, secretary-bookkeeper 1949 to present; Irene Steadman, library technician 1951 to present; Dorothy Rhyne, clerk, 1965 to present; Ruth Rapier, clerk part time 1973 to present; Barbara Park, clerk 1968 to present. Former members of regional staff: Mrs. E. H. Hamilton, Mrs. Opal Castleberry, Tommy Scruggs.

Mrs. H. G. Chadwick was for a period of time member of the Tennessee State Library Commission.

Clinton Librarians have been H. C. Scruggs, Sara Young acting, Bernice Dunaway, Emma Suddarth, Sada Peters 1945-1976, Diane Bailes, Willa Reister, Marian Yeager, Roberta Boone and Rebecca Williams, present librarian.

Clinton Library staff members of long standing are Jeanette Stair and Marjorie Whittlesey. Ann Shugarts is present staff member, part time.

An incomplete list of librarians in the county libraries have been and are: Dutch Valley, Mrs. Chris Denney, Mrs. R. C. Rapier; Andersonville, Mrs. Walter Irwin and Mrs. Edna Wallace; Fairview, Mrs. W. L. Whaley, Mrs. Letha Davis, Mrs. Carl Huff; Briceville, Mrs. Clarence Norman, Mrs. Marie Phillips; Devonia, Patsy Ruth Miller; Poplar Creek, Mrs. Clyde Fox, Mrs. Herman Bealle and Mrs. Phillips; Norris, Mrs. Ann Goulden, Mrs. R. O. Neihoff, Mrs. Gordon Colborn, Mrs. Betty Jolly; Lake City, Mrs. Carl Alley, Mrs. McLaurine.

The Clinton Public Library Building was dedicated on April 21, 1974. The building committee members were Byron H. Hale, chairman; Dr. J. E. Jones, vice-chairman; Mrs. Gomer D. Hoskins, treasurer; Mrs. W. Buford Lewallen and Mrs. Charles Stansberry, co-chairmen of fund raising; Mrs. Charles F. Parke, recording secretary; Miss Helene Macres, financial secretary.

The building committee, appointed by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, was responsible for fund raising, planning, constructing and equipping the facility. Herschel V. Anderson and Miss Katheryn Culbertson, state librarian, were library consultants. The building fund included local contributions, State of Tennessee library grant, and Appalachian Region Commission grant.

Local governments which finance the Anderson County Library system are Anderson County, Clinton, Lake City and Norris.

Throughout the years the Civitan Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Timely Topics Club and various other civic and cultural organizations have contributed generously toward needs and extras arising which were not covered by budgeted funds, such as landscaping, extra hours for libraries to be open, etc.

The Oak Ridge Library has not been included in this series, since it is not a regional library, and will be discussed later.

Manuscript reveals

Gadson Town settled by tribe descendants

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. May 6, 1982.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

The history of the Gadson family, and settlement of Gadson Town in Anderson County, was written in 1944 by Henry Lee Knott, a Gadson descendant. It is through courtesy of Cleo Gadson that portions of Knott's unpublished manuscript is made available to readers of Clinton Courier-News.

Selected portions of the manuscript follow:

Origin of the Gadson family

Gadson Town as we know it did not happen by accident. It is the result of faith, prayer, long suffering, careful planning, patience, love, romance, independence and determination to succeed — handed down from one generation to another, each having his own part to play. The responsibility seems to have fallen on the eldest sons of the family.

It began in the 18th century, when two small boys from the Tribe of Gad were kidnapped and brought to Charleston, S. C. and sold to a planter.

(The Tribe of Gad was a group of shepherds who settled east of the central part of the River Jordan following the march to the promised land described in the Bible.)

For entertainment, the planter ordered the newly acquired slaves to wrestle and for a reward the winner was to carry the tribal name while the vanquished would be given a new name. Our beloved ancestor was the victor and was ever after known as Gad. As he downed his opponent, he held his head in the sand until the referee pronounced the decision. His opponent was ever after known as "Sandy" became of the red sand in his wooly head.

Gad grew and became a favorite with his master's household. It was his job to see to it that his master had sufficient light to read to his household at night. Newspapers and magazines were rare, most of the reading was from the Bible.

This had a two-fold effect on Gad. As he crowded close to his master to hold the rich splinter of pine together to keep an even light, his eyes would follow where his master was reading. He soon learned to read, also to learn the Bible. He outgrew this job and was assigned to other duties.

Later he became the plantation minister, or preacher for the slaves. He married the belle of the plantation. Her name was unpronounceable with an English speaking tongue, but it meant "spoon handle sit on a bench." Their first son was named Isaac. Gad, who was familiar with Bible stories of the children of Israel, was sure that some day his seed would go free. All of his sons were named from the Bible.

Gad had to be very careful what he preached, and also keep secret his ability to read. Once he was overheard by his master preaching about freedom, and he was immediately taken into custody for severe punishment. They questioned him about his confederates and plans, but he escaped punishment by assuring them he only meant freedom from sin. He was forbidden to use the word "free," so he changed his phraseology and would say to his listeners that when they got over into that godly land their hours of toil would not be so long, the sun would not be so hot, their huts would have floors in them, the crops would grow better and they would have enough to eat.

Gad's children and grandchildren thought him fogey, but respected his leadership, and hoped for the fulfillment of his prophecy. His son, Isaac, taught his oldest son, Elijah, to read. When Elijah was 12-years-old he was sold because he resented his mother being tortured and beaten mercilessly by an overseer. His master sold him for $1,500.

At the age of 18, Elijah

(Continued on next page)

deserted his master, Jink Knott, and joined the U. S. Army under Elijah Knott. His education caused him to be promoted to an officer's rank. He served the government faithfully for four years, always with two purposes in mind: to preserve the Union and free his people from bondage, and to bring them to that godly land his grandfather so often spoke of in his primitive sermons. He had four years of fighting for the land of his dreams. As he marched through Tennessee, the clear streams, rolling hills and friendly people all made him wonder, "Could this be the place — it is not too hot in summer nor too cold in winter. The slaves fare better than elsewhere, and the lands are rich in minerals."

One day, while taking a walk near camp, he met a milk maid, who was his ideal, and he was hers. He had to move on with the troops, but promised her that when the war was over he would return.

But first he returned home to his mother's, where he soon found the goodly land that Granddaddy Gad had spoken of was not to be found in Georgia. The colored soldiers were being called smoked Yankees, and the surroundings were unpleasant and dangerous.

(Continued)

Gadson Town established

Daddy Gad's prophecy fulfilled after Civil War

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. May 13, 1982.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian
Part II

(Continued excerpts from the manuscript fo Henry Lee Knott, descendent of Gad.)

At the close of the civil war, and after he had decided that East Tennessee and not Georgia was the promised land of his dreams, Elijah Knott, grandson of Gad, returned to Knoxville. He recruited a small bunch of men and came out to where the Southern Railroad now crosses Chestnut Ridge, between Knoxville and Clinton, and hired on with a construction contractor who was building the new Southern Railway between Knoxville and Harriman Junction.

As soon as he settled he bought a small plot of ground, built a log cabin on it and sent to Loudon, for the girl of his dreams to meet him in Knoxville. This she did, they were married there that day and he took her to their new home, where they were very happy.

He worked on the railroad, she cared for the garden and tended her cow and chickens. Indeed, it seemed the goodly land was theirs to enjoy.

The first year a baby was born, but the next year the child took sick and died, the first of the Gadsons to be buried in the Herrell graveyard. A few months later a second child was born, but the young mother, sick from worry and care of the first child, became very ill and died. In less than a year, the second child died. The three were buried side by side, where many years later Elijah and his second wife, Sibby, were laid to rest.

Elijah was in great sorrow following the death of his first wife and two children. He felt that if the prophesy of Gad was to be fulfilled something would have to be done. He longed for his mother; he could see the advantage of collective living. He felt that if only his mother had been there those things would not have happened. He resolved to do something about it. He saved his money until he had a sufficient amount to carry out his plans. After securing some cabins for them to live in until they could adjust themselves, he returned to Georgia to bring his kindred away. He succeeded in bringing his mother, father, brothers James, Bridges and Lawrence, sisters Nannie, Affie, Harriett, Sally and Lucy, three uncles, their wives and children, two sons-in-law and Richard Jones.

Thus, Gadson Town sprang into being and the prophecy of Daddy Gad was fulfilled, for truly it was a goodly land for many years to come.

In order to get money to finish paying for their land, some of the boys went to Alabama to work. Elijah, James and a cousin Johanna Gadson married and brought their wives back and reared large families. Johanna's wife had two children and died. He later went to Kentucky, married again and reared a large family.

Family records show that out of the Gadson family came those in all walks of life — preachers, teachers, doctors, politicians, mechanics, engineers, businessmen, cooks, soldiers, etc. But to all, Gadson Town was sacred.

Some of the old folks of the then fourth civil district were Susan Cox and daughter; Nanny Calaway; Isaac Gadson and second wife; Johanna; Abraham Gadson, first wife Agnes and second wife Mary; John Gadson and wife Easter; Sam Duncan and wife Teppy and daughter Minerva; Richard Lee and wife Jan; Granny Fanny Lee, a widow; General Davis and wife.

All have disappeared from the scene, but will still live in the memories of their devoted descendants.

The new era had brought a flood of prosperity there and in nearby communities. Clinton was then booming, and bidding to become a commercial center. Her chief exports were lumber and zinc. The sawmills and zinc factory were operating day and night. There also was a railroad junction to carry the coal from the Cumberland Mountains to the south and east.

This, too, was a building era for Clinton. The Southern Railway at that time had a wooden covered bridge near the depot and they built the new iron bridge, which was rare in this part of the country. A new county courthouse was built and the first gigantic clock to be had in the county was installed. It's gong could be heard for miles around, which was used as a time signal by many people. A new improved jail was built. What is now U.S. Highway 25-W was only a plain road or trail between Clinton and Knoxville. Anderson County built a bridge over the Clinch River; also a bridge over Bull Run Creek and macadamized the road to Knox County.

Harriman also boomed then — hoe and tool factories, steel mills, and the Harriman railroad yards were a clearing place for the neighboring coal mines and coke oven products.

Several families moved from Gadson Town to Harriman during that period. Among them were Jack and Mollie Carmichael, their five children, Abraham, Cora, Alex, Frank and Ollie; Jacob and Lucy Haun and their two children, Clara and also the Thomas Hord family.

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July 10, 1890. HAWTHORNE CLUB, a Literary Society, was organized and was to be strictly a literary club—neither a social club or a debating organization. Was to meet every Thursday evening at the home of members. Officers were James W. Young, President; Letitia Petree, Vice-President; Willie Frazier, Secretary; D. K. Young, Treasurer; Rev. John Frazier, Critic; Jay Young, Librarian.

November 15, 1891. PLEASANT HOME LITERARY SOCIETY was organized and met at the Peaks Schoolhouse. Officers were S. D. Harrington, President; Kate Yarnell, Recording Secretary; J. Q. A. West, Corresponding Secretary; P. M. Yarnell, Critic.

Growth in 1890s led to construction of church

This is another in a series of historical articles on Anderson County and her people. May 20, 1982.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part III

(Continued excerpts from the manuscript of Henry Lee Knott, descendant of the Tribe of Gad.)

The 1890s was a time of building in Gadson Town. Up to that time all residences were built of logs, but prosperity had given the opportunity to improve. Those who built were E. Knott, James Gadson, Isaac Staples, William Cox, Isaac Cox, B. J. Gadson, Lawrence Jones, Isaiah Gadson and Richard Jones.

Up to that time church and public school were held in the same building. The East Tennessee Conference sent one of the sons as pastor - the Rev. E. Knott. He immediately took steps to get support from the church extension society to build a new church, which was erected in 1892 and named Havens Chapel.

The rites were performed by the ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Samuel Clark was the man who used the trowel and placed the cornerstone. Rev. E. Knott was the officiating minister, who placed the money, bible, corn and wine in the foundation under the stone.

The generations of all the Gadsons gathered at their old church and marched up to the new one, singing as they went. Their song was one they thought best fitting for them on such an occasion. It marked a great milestone in their progress of 27 years of freedom - all homes paid for, children in school and being able to serve God under their own vines and fig trees. So they sang with all their might, soul and strength and shouted for joy:

"I've reached the land of corn and wine
And all its riches freely mine.
Here shines undimmed a blissful day
And all my nights have passed away.
Oh, Beulah Land, sweet Beulah Land . . ."

It must be remembered that the Gadson family was very religious, as well as clannish and independent - patterning their lives after the children of Israel. They felt that the hopes, dreams and prayers of their ancestors were fulfilled that day, so you see, to them, it was a great day of feasting, rejoicing and thanksgiving.

The cornerstone laying was a very interesting affair. The families who had moved to Harriman were back with their families for the celebration, Frank Anderson presiding.

It is significant that the church lot was donated by Isaac Cox for the sum of $1 to make it legal. Every one cooperated in the building effort, old and young, and we all felt like one great, big, loving family.

Nelson Thomas was the first sexton; William Cox the first Sunday school superintendent. Local preachers were Nannie Jones, John Gadson, James Gadson, Isaac Gadson, Harrison McSwain. The Rev. Elijah Knott was the first pastor.

The standard of life that the Gadsons maintained caused their young to be sought after in marriage. The youngsters who came from Georgia were soon married. The next younger set to begin married life were Nannie Cox to Charles Moore, a shoemaker of Clinton; Emma Thomas to Harrison McSwain, a civil war veteran, political stump speaker and local preacher. Some of our boys were Lawrence Jones to Beatie Black, Isaiah Gadson to Mattie Calloway; Isaac Worthington to Mary Lee; Lincoln Cross to Temme Black; Charlie Cox to Callie Marshall; Lotsy Lea to Barbara George; Isaac Gadson to Narris Gennie Staples; Nancy Martin to Will Griffin, and many others. Henry Lee married Texas (no last name given), who lived a short time, bearing two sons, Will and Eppy. He remarried to Agnes Knott, daughter of Rev. E. Knott, who bore him two daughters, Henrietta and Ethel.

Clinton furnished most all of our school teachers, until our children had some college training. Names as follows: Mr. Preston, Johnathon King, Josephine McAdoo, who served us four years. Also Minnie Dixon, Laura McAdoo, Albert Knott and others.

Our post office, Bull Run, was one and one-half mile away. Mail came twice per week, the weather being nice enough to

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HAVENS CHAPEL — The building shown above was built in 1945 but the first building was constructed in 1892. The community now worships in a building erected in 1966.

40 cents.

The load which he disposed of in Knoxville consisted of:

Three hundred and one pounds chickens at five cents a pound, $15.05.

Nine head of roosters at 15 cents each, $1.35.

Four head of ganders at 25 cents each, $1.00.

Eighty three pounds of butter at 12 cents per pound, $9.96.

One hundred and forty six and one-half dozen eggs at 12 cents per dozen, $17.70.

One chicken, 10 cents.

The total received for the items was $45.66.

Other expenses paid by Dr. Lee as administrator were $3.50 for burial, $1 for a pair of pants for burial and $10 for a coffin.

Mr. Brown also owed for some hay he had bought, purchases in various stores, some other doctor and medicine bills not heretofore mentioned, newspaper notice of insolvency, clerk's fee, etc., all together making a total of Brown's debts of $85.81. Preferred claims by law amounted to $32.35, leaving a total of $19.57 to be distributed among other creditors. All of which added up to more days of Dr. Lee's time, because he settled this by law and in the same manner as if it had been a large estate settlement.

Reviewing Brown's rather simple way of living, and the few necessities actually required for burial—"a coffin, a suit of clothes and a grave," reminds us of the true simplicity of life and death.

And knowing how Dr. Lee took care of so many things for Mr. Brown in life and death, impresses upon the fact that this busy, much needed physician forgot himself and his way of life, to take care of the things his friend could not do for himself and his family. This friend was of a different race and whom no one else had offered to help. There are many other instances when Dr. Lee was known to have taken time out to help someone in need.

Dr. C. B. Lee - a truly great man in his time.

Established precedent

One pioneer woman gave freedom to young slave

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. May 26, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

From Webster's several definitions of "pioneer," it seems that the following is a very apt description of many women who helped settle the land which is now Anderson County.

"A pioneer is one who goes before, preparing the way for others to follow."

While the pioneer woman did not actually clear the land and prepare the way in that respect, their many examples of leadership and ability to cope with day to day troubles, surely led others who followed to realize that being a woman carried certain responsibilities which were important in building a new life in unsettled country.

In 1836, 147 years ago and almost a quarter of a century before the Civil War, an Anderson County woman by the name of Zepporah England, in a very businesslike manner, went about preparing the way for others to follow regarding slaves. She must have been a very good woman, one with a vision of things to come, and an extraordinary understanding of human behavior.

Apparently for no other reason except she thought it was the right thing to do, she gave a Negro slave, a man named Charles, his freedom. She did this by process of law, so that no other person could ever hold him in bondage. Hers is one of the first known instances in our county of voluntary emancipation of a slave by an owner. The legal process at that time required to free a slave is interesting. It was necessary for Mrs. England to prepare a petition, which she did. The petition was presented at the April 1836 session of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for Anderson County. The justices commissioned to hold this court were John Gibbs, William McCarney, Aaron Slover, John Childs and John O'Neal. A portion of Mrs. England's petition follows:

"That she is a citizen of Anderson County; that she is the owner of a Negro man named Charles, about 20 years of age; that said Negro is industrious, honest and of good character. That said Negro has served her faithfully during the time she has owned him, and she believes he will be able to make a living for himself if he is set free; and being unwilling to hold said Negro in slavery and grateful to him for the manner in which he has served her, she is unwilling that any other person shall hold him in bondage."

She asked the Court to issue a certificate according to law, giving Charles his freedom. Such a certificate was mandatory in order to distinguish a free Negro from a runaway slave.

The Court honored her petition and the certificate was issued. It was necessary then for Mrs. England to execute a note for $1,000 to secure the county from being charged with the maintenance and support of Charles should he not be able to make a living for himself. John Cross and Jonathan Scarbrough signed the note with Mrs. England. This was April 11, 1836.

A widow in the early days of our county must have had rough going, even under the best of circumstances. If her husband died without a will, she had to depend upon the Quarterly Court to set aside for her a homestead and dower, and a year's support. A committee of three men was usually appointed by the Court to do this, and there is listed below the items which made up a year's support granted an Anderson County woman in 1880 by the County Court. It is well to bear in mind that this was a family of comfortable circumstances. The scale would slant downward for widows in less favorable circumstances. This particular woman in 1880 received for a year's support for her and her children the following:

200 pounds soap, 25 pounds candles, 50 pounds wool, 20 pounds raw cotton, four bales spun cotton, five bolts (200 yards) domestic, $4 worth of Indigo, madder and other dyestuff, $50 worth of shoe leather, 150 bushes corn, 3,000 pounds flour, 2,000 pounds bacon, 200 pounds lard, $100 worth of sugar and coffee, five sacks salt, 25 gallons syrup, six bushels fruit, one beef cow and two shoats.

Total estimated value $697.

As may be noted, many of these articles were raw material, so she was left with a do-it-yourself problem to some extent.

Again if there was no will, the real estate and personal belongings would be settled according to the prevailing law at that time, by an executor or administrator appointed by the Court.

(To be continued)

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Escaped Prisoners. One November day in 1905 four prisoners escaped from the county jail in Clinton. The alarm was spread by ringing the court house bell. A large number of citizens pursued the prisoners, who were caught.

July 4, 1889. First ad for typewriter noted. The Odell Type Writer Company of Chicago had a machine which sold for $15.00. And ad for a salesman said "any intelligent person can become a good typist in a week, or a rapid one in two months."

Known as hard worker

Levi Weaver was a friend to all men

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. September 8, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part I

Joel Chandler Harris wrote about black folklore. His several collections of tales were published from about 1880 to 1907.

His fictional character, Uncle Remus, was an old plantation worker, with a great store of tales and songs illustrative of black folklore, and dealing mainly with Br'er Rabbit and other animal characters. These tales usually brought out something to remember about human traits and characteristics.

Anderson County's Levi Weaver, many times in his life, by his actions and words, also emphasized human characteristics and traits. His understanding of human nature was almost unbelievable, and the tales he would tell of his experiences were true stories of what actually happened.

Many people in Clinton and Anderson County remember Levi with love and appreciation. It is in this vein that a portion of his biography is presented here. It is interlaced with his characteristic sayings. Many are humorous, some are serious, while others show his high regard for religion and the right way of life.

Levi was born in 1863. His mother was a slave, so of course Levi was born a slave, but freedom came while he was still an infant. He died in 1932.

It was about 1876, when Levi was 13-years-old, that his mother took him to Arvel Taylor's large home on Hind's Creek, knocked on the front door, and asked for Mr. Taylor. "Here's that little black boy I promised you," she told him. "Take him, raise him, and see if you can make anything out of him, 'cause I wouldn't want to try to work this boy again."



IN THE WHEAT FIELDS—Levi Weaver (second from left) was a popular black man among whites and blacks around the turn of the century. Other men pictured are, from left, Joe Overton, Sevier Overton, Babe Hillon and Billy Miller. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Fletcher (Maude) Overton Hicks.

It is now history that Arvel Taylor took Levi into his home, gave him a room of his own, raised him and made a good man out of him. But Arvel Taylor could not have made a good man out of Levi, unless Levi had some inherent good qualities upon which to build. He became a person many people were proud to call friend.

Levi lived with the Taylor family a good many years, and grew up with the Taylor sons. He made himself useful both inside the house and outside on the farm. He loved horses. The Taylor farm was quite large and there were some fine horses there all the time.

In 1919, Mr. Taylor bought a blooded Morgan mare, which he named Maud; also a Percheron colt he named Prince. Prince was a highly strung colt, headstrong and sometimes hard to handle. Levi broke him in and he became an excellent farm horse. He was especially good in the plow, but one thing about it, Levi said, that horse knew when to quit. When it began to get close to the noon dinner hour, Levi said Prince would flop his ears, back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. Then when the dinner bell rang, Prince would condescend to finish the row he was on, but no more. When that row was finished Prince would turn his head toward the barn, and you'd better hang on 'cause there was no stopping that horse. Levi would say, "Ole Prince got sense–more sense than any black and some white men."

Levi would say he helped raise Mr. Taylor's sons, and one grandson. After Arvel Taylor died, one of his sons, George, bought the farm and moved there with his family. When he thought George Taylor's son, William, was old enough, Levi would take him around on the farm with him. He took a great liking to the boy, and sometimes would let him hold the plow handle for a short distance. When William's mother, "Miss Roxie," found out she confronted Levi, but Levi said he "got her straightened out." He said, "Now you don't want that boy to grow up and be an ignoramus and not know how to do anything around here."

Levi would go to Clinton on Saturdays to see and talk with friends, both black and white. A favorite place in Clinton for men to gather and talk was on Depot St. (now Market) in front of the J. W. Hill Grocery store. Levi enjoyed talking with them and they liked to talk with him. It was just the everyday talk of friends, and occasionally laughter could be heard. When some of Levi's little friends (of which he had many) would happen to pass by where the men were talking, one or more would push their way through the group and speak to Levi. Levi would stop in the middle of a sentence, pat the boys on the head and say, "Hello, Billy, or Johnny" or whatever the boys' names were, and then he would finish his sentence to his grown friends with hardly a pause.

Levi was deeply religious and observed some things about the Sabbath that many people did not. For instance, he never ate certain foods, such as fat meat, or onions, or some highly seasoned foods, on a Saturday or Monday. He said "it was too nigh Sunday to eat those things."

(To be continued)

Tells of meeting 'Devil'

Levi's mules outpull the fancy white horses

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. September 15, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Part II

Levi bought himself a team of mules. He frequently adorned the mules' harness with small bells. You could hear him coming, driving very slow so he could speak to people along the way. Children and grown-ups alike would stop whatever they were doing and rush to the front door so they could holler at him as he went by.

Levi loved his mules. He was good to them and talked to them a lot. And they liked Levi, because sometimes when their load was heavy and they were pulling with all their might but still having trouble getting over a rough place, Levi would get down out of the wagon and turn a wheel to get it going. One mule was quite a bit smaller than the other, but they made a good team.

Levi and his team of mules hauled coal quite often for people in the Clinton vicinity, from the mines in the Briceville and Beech Grove area. Many times something out of the ordinary would happen on Levi's hauling trips to the mines. Of course, with his outgoing disposition, Levi could turn a bad experience into something amusing, but also with a lesson.

His favorite, which he loved to tell, was about the time that just as he had finished loading his wagon with coal, this big wagon from Knoxville, pulled by two big fine white horses, had pulled up alongside him and was being loaded. The driver of the fine white horses yelled to Levi, "Don't you pull out in front of me. Your little mules won't be able to pull that load of coal out of here and over bad places, and you will be in my way and delay me in getting back to Knoxville, and besides I have further to go than you have."

Levi pulled back very respectfully and let him go first. The big fine wagon and two white horses with their fancy harness were the very picture of wealth. But the fine horses could not pull the wagon, loaded with coal, out of a low and difficult place in the road. The wagon bogged down and stalled.

The driver called to Levi and told him to tie on to the big wagon's tongue and help pull him out. Levi said, "No, but if you will get your fine horses out, I will hitch my little mules in, and pull you out." The Knoxville driver argued, but finally gave in and took his horses out. Levi hitched his mules in to the big wagon and pulled it on to level ground.

All the other driver knew was that when Levi took hold of the wheel spokes and talked real soft to his mules, the wagon was pulled out on of the low place. What the driver didn't know was that Levi pulled that wagon right along with his mules. People who knew him said he could pull as much as one of his mules could. And that is how he got the nickname of Wheel-Horse.

As he grew up, Levi worked occasionally for Sam Moore, and at times would sleep in the Moore barn. One year, Mr. Moore set up a Halloween party for Levi and some of his friends. He told Levi that if he and his friends would congregate at the forks of the road and build a fire under a big iron kettle full of water, and each bring a musical instrument and play music while marching around the kettle, the Devil would come exactly at midnight, and would grant each boy one request.

Well, Levi took his "cordial" (accordian), little Esau had a banjo, and the other boys had various musical instruments. Midnight found the boys playing music and dancing around the kettle, while Mr. Moore and some others were off in the corner of a fence a little distance away. Mr. Moore had dressed himself up like the devil. He put a rocking chair on his shoulders, with the rockers sticking up like horns. He put a sheet over himself and the chair, and carried a lighted lantern under the sheet. He went slowly walking over toward the boys.

Little Esau saw Moore first and started running with his banjo. He fell into a mud hole and couldn't get up. As each one ran over him his banjo sounded off, while with every step Levi took, his accordian went woop-woop, woop-woop.

The others apparently scattered, but Levi was so scared he ran straight for the Moore residence. He knocked the swinging gate off its hinges as he went through, and slammed the kitchen door flat down on the floor, then crawled under the kitchen table.

Mrs. Moore came along and saw him under the table. "Levi! what happened. What are you doing down there?" All Levi could say was "Oh, the Devil! Oh, the Devil!"

Mrs. Moore started out to look for Mr. Moore, but it is not known just what she said to him.

While Levi got a lesson he always remembered: "Never believe the Devil's promises."

(To be continued)

Had a mule trick

Weaver, man of muscle, loved by black and white

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. September 22, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County Historian

Conclusion

Levi Weaver possessed almost unbelievable physical strength. Not only was this proven by his pulling on the wagon sometimes to help his mules, but it was rumored around town that he could actually lift one of his mules off the ground.

So, one year, shortly before time for the annual Anderson County Fair to be held in Clinton, some of Levi's friends got after him to demonstrate his strength at the fair by picking up his mule. One of his team was a rather small or medium size mule, which was the one he would lift off the ground.

The story has been told around Clinton by different people who have heard it from some of their family, that one year Levi did demonstrate his strength at the fair by picking up his mule and balancing it on his shoulder. He had trained the mule to let him do the balancing act.

(Continued on next page)

Not only did Levi have unusual physical strengh, but he had strength of character, was intelligent in a common sense way, and always kept his feet on the ground. He had a strong feeling of right and wrong, which was apparent to all who knew him, regardless of the little jokes and pranks which he enjoyed as much as anyone, provided they were not harmful pranks. He also liked to fish, but would never neglect his work in order to go fishing.

Arvel Taylor, who raised Levi, was a member of the Tennessee State Legislature for several years during the time Levi was growing up. Sometimes, when Mr. Taylor was away, Levi would get his friend, Little Esau, to help him get his work finished earlier, then the two of them would go fishing in the late afternoon. But the work always came first.

When Levi became a young man, he was very popular with the young ladies. One Sunday afternoon he borrowed a rubber tired buggy, with a high stepping team, from Sam Moore to escort a school teacher to the "festibal" (festival) over in Heavenly Hollow. She wanted to drive, and gave Levi her "muffin" (muff) to keep his hands warm. Somewhere along the way there was a branch to ford, and a fellow driving a buckboard was stuck fast in the mud. But Levi just sailed right on through "I'se glad I got through safe," Levi said, "just call me 'Safety'.

Now Levi mispronounced a good many words on purpose. He knew the correct way to say them, but he liked to make people laugh now and then.

Levi was married twice. By his first wife, Mary, his children were Albert and Rose. Mary had a son named Sanford, who became Levi's stepson.

Levi's second wife was Victoria Burch. She and Levi raised eight children: Lois, Bessie, Sterling, Alphonso, Hun, Gladys, Beatrice and Rena Bell.

Victoria loved everybody. She liked to have company in her home, and there was nearly always company there. She would just bed them down on the floor when necessary.

One time Levi's home burned and he and his family moved to an abandoned building which had been combined school house and church. Levi purchased the property and remodeled and made additions, turning it into a residence. Some time later his barn and contents burned. The barn contained a sizable amount of hay and corn, three mules, two cows and his son Alphonso's Ford automobile.



SANFORD WEAVER
(Levi's stepson)

Levi died in December 1932, and was buried on a Christmas Sunday afternoon, in the Weaver Cemetery on Lewallen Rd. His funeral was arranged by a white man, Jim Graham, who received permission to do so from Levi's wife, Victoria. She said she thought it was appropriate that white folks did this because Levi lived with white folks a long time, and talked with white folks on the street and around town as much or more than he did with black people. Frank Moore, Brice Wallace, Mike Miller and a Mr. Overton were other white men who helped with arrangements and asked to be pall bearers. They said they were proud to have served as pall bearers for their friend, Levi.

Everything considered, there seems to be no question but that Levi Weaver was "one of a kind."

Note: Credit and thanks for most of the information about Levi Weaver go to Levi's daughter and son, Mr. George (Gladys) Iker and Alphonso Weaver; and to William Taylor, who has many cherished memories of his growing up on the farm, and his association with his friend Levi.

Started with nine members

Spanish War veterans organized in 1909

This is another historical article on Anderson County and her people. September 29, 1983.

BY KATHERINE B. HOSKINS
County historian

The Clinton Camp of United Spanish War Veterans was organized April 5, 1909. The organizational meeting was held in the office of the Register of Deeds, Anderson County Courthouse, with nine Local Spanish-American war veterans attending, all Anderson County residents.

Comrade Commander Capt. H. E. Geatz, department commander, organized the Clinton Camp by mustering in the following charter members: Wm. Alf Brown, Moses S. Duncan, Xen Hicks, Masten R. Hill, J. H. May, William May, James C. Robbins, A. L. Skaggs and John Wilson.

The following officers for the Clinton Camp were elected: Commander, Xen Hicks; Sr. Vice-Commander, William May; Jr. Vice-Commander, M. H. Hill; Officer of the Day, A. L. Skaggs; Officer of the Guard, J. H. May.

Commander Hicks appointed W. A. Broan as adjutant and M. S. Duncan quarter master.



J. B. C. HERRELL

At the second meeting of the Camp the Charter was closed with the mustering in of the following new comrades: M. F. Duncan, Wesley Farmer, and Josiah B. C. Herrell. Herrell was elected chaplain.

Under the charter the official name of the new organization was Clinton Camp No. 11, Department of Tennessee, United Spanish War Veterans.

The mustering in fee was $1, and dues were set at $1 per year, 25 cents payable quarterly. For transfer from another camp the mustering in fee was 50 cents.

Qualifications for membership were: all honorably discharged officers, soldiers, sailors and acting assistant surgeons of the regular and volunteer Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States, who honorably served during the war with or the incidental insurrection in the Philippines prior to July 4, 1902; and all officers or enlisted men in the U. S. Revenue Cutter Service or any vessel assigned to duty under the control of the United States Army or Navy Department during such war or insurrection prior to said date, are eligible for membership.

The camp organizations were in some respects somewhat similar to secret fraternal lodges in that a secret password was needed for entrance to a meeting, secret balloting and so

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