

“DIGGING’S” PAST AND PRESENT

In Celebration of the 30th year of the Genealogy and History Page and “Digging for Your Roots” in the Jonesborough Herald and Tribune, we will be placing some tidbits from the past.

JANUARY 1

January 1, 1992- John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, “Tennessee County Records – Part II.” This article contained information prepared by Linda M. Williams entitled: “State of Tennessee, Individual County Records Information Sources.” This article contained contacts for Tennessee counties from Gibson to Macon.

January 1, 2013- John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, “Broylesville On National Register, Part II.” Kiener published this article with hopes that residents of Broylesville would help in updating the Broylesville Historic District. Originally the application was filled out by the First Tennessee Development District in November of 1984. This article contained information on eight properties including the Broylesville Inn (now gone); the Thomas Telford House; Broyles’ Mercantile Establishment; Cobbler’s House; Garst House; Ira Green House; Bashor Mill; and Parker House.

JANUARY 8

January 8, 1992- John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, “Washington County, Tennessee Deeds 1775-1800- A Review.” This article described and reviewed Lorraine Bennett Rae’s new book, *Washington County, Tennessee Deeds: 1775-1800*, published in 1991. At the time of this article, it was for sale for \$30.00. Today, genealogists are lucky to find this book still in print. Reprints can still be purchased through Southern Historical Press for \$35.00. According to Kiener, “This 194 page volume (plus index) is loaded with the names of the persons who founded Tennessee – and the names of many Washington County pioneer families. Let me go from A to Z with only a sample list: A, Adams, Allison, Anderson; B, Bacon, Bailey, Brown, Broyles; C, Campbell, Cantrell, Carson, Carter, Clark; D, Davis, Depew, Duncan; E, Ellis, Embree, English; F, Fain, Fitzgerald, Ford French; G, Gallagher, Gann, Gentry, Glasgow; H, Hale, Hammer, Harris, Haws, Hodge; I, Inman, Irwin; J, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Jordan; K, Kennedy, King, Kincheloe; L, Lewis, Love, Lyle, Lyons; M, Martin Massengill, Mathews, Miller, Mitchell, Moffit; N, Nelson, Neely, Nichols, Norwood; O, Odell, Oldham, O’Neal, Orr Owens; P, Paine, Painter, Prichard; Q, Quinn; R, Ragan, Ramsey, Randolph, Range, Rea, Robertson, Russell; S, Sample, Sevier, Shanks, Shaw, Shipley, Sloan, Smith, Stone; T, Taylor, Thompson, Thornton, Tipton; U, Underwood; V, Vance, Vincent; W, Waddell, Waggoner, Walker, Wallace, Ward, Wiley, Wilhoit, Wilson, Wood; X, all the signatures of our relatives who simply could not read or write – or even sign their names; Y, Young, Yancy, York; and Z, Zarpa. Lorraine includes the variety of spellings she found in the Deeds, as for example, Smith/Smithe/Smythe.”

JANUARY 15

January 15, 1992- John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, “Tennessee County Records- Part III.” This article contained information prepared by Linda M. Williams entitled: “State of Tennessee, Individual County Records Information Sources.” This article contained contacts for Tennessee counties from Madison to Scott.

JANUARY 22

January 22, 2013- John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, "Waterford and Blarney Castle." This article showcased a trip that John and his wife, Belinda, made to Ireland, where they visited the Blarney Stone and Blarney Castle among other places in Ireland. This castle was the third erected on the site.

JANUARY 29

January 29, 1992 - Elaine Scott Cantrell wrote an article entitled, "The Rural Schools of the Twentieth Century – Part I." In this article, a list of Washington County Teachers in 1935 appeared. The article stated, "One hundred and sixty-seven teachers elected to serve in Washington County schools for the 1935-36 term were announced yesterday by Russell B. Clark, county superintendent of schools." The article showcased 62 elementary schools and 4 high schools. In just 4 short years, the county would consolidate many of these schools when the WPA built brick schools in Washington County in 1939-1940.

FEBRUARY 5

FEBRUARY 12

February 12, 1992 – Billy H. Campbell wrote an article entitled, "On Account of High Waters: A History of the Weather Wonders in Garber's and Along the Beautiful Cherokee Creek." The article detailed early weather events along Cherokee Creek in the community of Garber. According to Campbell, "The earliest weather account that I can find in local records of a flood in the Cherokee Creek Valley comes to us from the minutes of the Historical Cherokee Baptist Church Records. "Saturday, February 2, 1861, no meeting on account of high waters." As with many events, historical records, newspaper accounts, and other materials also recorded weather events in our county and region.

FEBRUARY 19

February 19, 1992 – Excerpts from the diary of John A. Jones appeared on the "Digging for Your Roots." According to the article, "Selected passages from the Diary of John A. Jones (no relation to Peter M. Jones) January 7th 1879 to 1880. The son of Henry M and Hannah Marsh Jones was born in 1850 in the settlement which later became Fairview. Here he resided all his life. After rearing his family, he and his wife traveled extensively throughout the United States. Over a century later his influence is still deeply felt." The article detailed life in Fairview community, from preaching at Deals school house and Marsh's school house to washing trees with very strong soap suds to visiting the dentist and, of course, the recording of funerals.

FEBRUARY 26

February 26, 1992 – Excerpts from the diary of John A. Jones appeared on the "Digging for Your Roots." Selected passages from the Diary of John A. Jones appeared from 1881 to 1886. In an August 25, 1885 entry, Jones wrote about a colored camp meeting. He said, "there was a large congregation out." In a December 2, 1885 entry, John A. Jones, wrote about the death of his father, Henry M. Jones. Jones

wrote, "since last I made an entry here we have been thrown in the depths of sorrow and tribulation the silver cord has been loosed the golden bowl has been broken my father Henry M Jones entered into his rest at near 4 oclock on Nov. 21st we never can realize how close we stand at the brink of the dark river father had been apparently in his usual good health with the exception of a bad cold – we have every reason to believe that he died in the full triumph of faith . . ."

MARCH 4

March 4, 1992 – Joseph L. Brumit from Sun City West, AZ submitted an article entitled, "Elbert Montgomery Brumit and Nancy Ellen Francis Brumit." This article detailed the lives of Elbert Montgomery and Nancy Ellen Francis Brumit, who initially lived in Washington County, before settling in Hampton, Carter County, Tennessee.

MARCH 11

March 11, 1992 – Clinton N. Edwards from Johnson City submitted an article entitled, "Facts & Rumors Regarding William Edwards (born abt. 1804) and wife Polly Bowman (born abt. 1809-1810)." Edwards was looking for more information on this family, and listed 7 facts that he knew on the family.

MARCH 18

March 18, 1992 – Evelyn Cox Daugherty submitted an article entitled, "Cox Family and the Limestone Baptist Church." This article was in celebration of the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church's (formerly the Limestone Baptist Church) 150th Anniversary on June 30, 1992. The church will turn 178 years old in 2020.

MARCH 25

March 25, 1992 – John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, "The Comet – June 25, 1891." Kiener opened the article with the following: "County Commissioner Jim Powell stopped me a few days ago and commented favorably on the articles published by the Jonesborough Genealogical Society in the *Herald and Tribune*. In his hands was a copy of *The Comet* – published in Johnson City, Tenn., Thursday morning, June 25, 1891. Jim told me to keep *The Comet* and read it. In fact, he said, 'I might just give it to you.'" In this addition of the Comet was many details on the revival of the CC&O Railroad as well as many other industries coming to Johnson City, just in time for the turn of the 20th Century.

APRIL 1

April 1, 1992 – John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, "Business in 1891 Johnson City." Kiener continued his article on the June 25, 1891 edition of *the Comet*, with a listing of industries in Johnson City. Some of these industries included the Johnson City Tin and Stove Company, Marble Yard of W. C. Remine, the Johnson City Foundry and Machine Works, and the Johnson City Furniture Company.

APRIL 8

April 8, 1992 – Paul Fink wrote an article entitled, "Did You Know?" This article showcased efforts in Washington County for the war with Mexico in 1847. Fink wrote, "Troops were raised in Washington County for the War with Mexico."

APRIL 15

April 15, 1992 – “Digging for Your Roots” shared some information on the Hoss Family in an article entitled, “Pension Record – Bounty Land Warrant.” This article shared information on many members of the Hoss family, including Hannah Bayless Hoss, who was the widow of Isaac Hoss, a private in Capt. Stuart’s Co., 24th Regiment of the U.S. Infantry during War of 1812. Due to his service, Hannah was entitled to 160 acres of land. She sold this land on Sept. 21, 1852 to William Whitney of Wayne Co. Michigan. The article also recorded Bible Records of the Hoss Family and their connection to the Sevier Family. As well as a transcription of Hannah’s pension application, which was copied by Mary Hardin McCown on December 4, 1944.

APRIL 22

April 22, 1992 – Billy H. Campbell, returned to the “Digging for Your Roots,” with an article entitled, “Union Grove.” The article talked about the community of Union Grove, now called Union, along Cherokee Road. Campbell told of many of its earliest members, businesses, and the church for which it got its name.

APRIL 29

April 29, 1992 – From the files of Mary Hardin McCown, an article entitled, “Mrs. Moriah Louisa Brown Pierce” appeared in the “Digging for Your Roots.” This article told of Mrs. Pierce’s ancestry that related to the Embree, Sevier, Brown, and Byrd families, all early settlers in our area.

MAY 6

May 6, 1992 – Paul Fink wrote an article entitled, “Did You Know?” This edition of “Did You Know?” showcased an interesting artifact found by Charles Marion Bennett in the old Chester Inn attic. This artifact gave clues to the first telephone company in Tennessee’s oldest town – Holston Telephone Company, dating to the late 1880s. The telephone was invented in 1876, which shows you, many of the nation’s inventions made it way to Jonesborough not long after it’s invention!

MAY 13

May 13, 1992 – John L. Kiener wrote an article entitled, “Washington County Records and the WPA.” In 1935, Mary Hardin McCown supervised a group of individuals who completed the first county records survey in Washington County. In this article, and sequent articles, Kiener published this survey for the first time in genealogical record.

MAY 20

May 20, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey project in an article entitled, “Index of Inventories and Settlements – Part II.” In this article, the “B” list of estates from the year 1778-1900 was published.

MAY 27

May 27, 1992 – Part III of John L. Kiener’s series on Mary Hardin McCown’s WPA records survey was published, entitled “Washington County Probate Records – Part III.” This article showcased a list of all the “C” surnames.

JUNE 3

June 3, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey of 1935 in an article entitled, “Washington County Probate Records – Part IV.” This article contained a list of surnames beginning with “D” and “E”.

JUNE 10

June 10, 1992 – Edith Miller Dupell wrote an article about her great great great grandfather, Samuel Walters, entitled, “Samuel Walters, one who Wore the Gray.” Samuel Walters and his siblings fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. Each were sent to Union prison camps. Samuel died in Fort Delaware.

JUNE 17

June 17, 1992 – Billy H. Campbell transcribed a resolution passed by the General Baptist Convention of East Tennessee, which met at Cherokee Baptist Church in December of 1865. This resolution was published in the *Union Flag* in January of 1866. This transcription is part of an article, he entitled, “The Clearing Storm.”

JUNE 24

June 24, 1992 – Genealogical notes on Rachel White and William A. Keene was published in the “Digging for Your Roots” in an article entitled, “History of Rachel White Keene.”

JULY 1

July 1, 1992 – From the files of Mary Hardin McCown came this article entitled, “Persistence of Virility.” The article states, “An interesting study is the persistence of the virility of a man or family into later generations of descendants. Washington County ranks high in this regard, having furnished many examples, only a few of the most pronounced of which can be treated of here, omitting such others as the family of Doak, Tipton, Deaderick, and Cunningham because of lack of space.” The article includes many examples including John Sevier and William Bean.

JULY 8

July 8, 1992 – MURDER & JAIL BREAK dotted the title of article in the Digging on July 8, 1992. This article showed transcriptions of articles within the *East Tennessee Union Flag* in 1865 and 1866, in the aftermath of the Civil War.

JULY 15

July 15, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey of 1935 in an article entitled, “Index of Inventories and Settlements – Part V.” This article contained a list of surnames beginning with “F” and “G”.

JULY 22

July 22, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey of 1935 in an article entitled, “Index of Inventories and Settlements – Part VI.” This article contained a list of surnames beginning with “G” and “H”.

JULY 29

July 15, 1992 – Paul Fink wrote a column for the H&T entitled, “Do You Know?” in the 1950s and 60s. This week’s article was first published on May 2, 1956, on the First Cemeteries of Jonesborough.

AUGUST 5

August 5, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey of 1935 in an article entitled, “Index of Inventories and Settlements – Part VII.” This article contained a list of surnames beginning with “I”, “J”, and “K”.

AUGUST 12

August 12, 1992 – John L. Kiener continued his series on the WPA Record Survey of 1935 in an article entitled, “Index of Inventories and Settlements – Part VIII.” This article contained a list of surnames beginning with “L” and “M”.

AUGUST 19

August 19, 1992 – Jonesborough Genealogical Society published an article on Silas Claborn Turnbo, who wrote a series of marvelous tales about the people, places and events of the early history of the Ozark region in Arkansas and Missouri. His stories form a sort of “Poorman’s Goodspeed History of the Ozark Region.” There is an amazing amount of genealogical information in them besides the entertainment value.

AUGUST 22

August 22, 1990 – This was the first “Digging for Your Roots” published in the Herald and Tribune. Lorraine Bennett Rae wrote an article entitled, “Serendipity,” and Elaine Scott Cantrell wrote an article entitled, “On the Trail of Tombstones in Carter County.” Rae wrote the article, “Serendipity” to bring awareness about the new column and ask for information for it. She also asked that the public name the column, but one week later, the header, “Digging for Your Roots” first appeared. Cantrell’s article described a trip through Carter County in hunt for the grave of Sarah L. Huffine and Samuel Britt. During the trip, Cantrell with visitors, Catherine and Charles Seaver of Muncie, Indiana, finding Haun-Britt Cemetery, but not the cemetery they were looking for. After this story was published, Cantrell found the graves of Sarah and Samuel Britt.

AUGUST 26

August 26, 1992 – Paul Fink wrote a column for the H&T entitled, “Do You Know?” in the 1950s and 60s. This week’s article was on the reasons behind the Southern Railroad placement in East Tennessee.

AUGUST 29

August 29, 1990 – Lorraine Rae wrote an article entitled, “Setting the Browns’ Record Straight.” This article discussed the bronze plaque to Col. Jacob Brown on the Washington County Courthouse placed by the Daughters of the American Colonists. In this article, Rae sets the record straight on misinformation on Brownsborough mentioned in the plaque. Jacob Brown and Joseph and James Brown were no relation to each other, and settled miles apart on the Nolichucky River. This article talks about the ancestry and descendants of Joseph and James.

SEPTEMBER 5

September 5, 1990 – An article entitled, “Jacob Brown of the Nolichucky.” This article discussed Col. Jacob Brown (The Trader) who settled on the Nolichucky River circa 1771 as well as this Brown Family’s lineage.

SEPTEMBER 12

September 12, 1990 – An article entitled, “Are You A Descendant of Jacob Brown?” This article discussed the three Jacob Brown families in Washington County, including the Col. Jacob Brown (the Trader), who settled on the Nolichucky River; Jacob Brown (the Wagonmaker) who settled near the town of Telford, and Jacob Brown who settled in the northeast part of Washington County near the Carter County line.

SEPTEMBER 26

September 26, 1990 – An article entitled, “More on Names!” This article discussed the need to understand the spelling of your surnames you are research. It gives several spellings of some of the area’s common names such as Massengill, Humphreys, Ervin, Bales, Bailey, and others.