

CCHGA BYTES

Cheatham County Historical and Genealogical Association



The Civil War Diary of Anna Lowe of Cheatham County - submitted by Greg Poole

The following diary excerpt was taken from the "Papers of Jeanette Sloan Warner" located in the Tennessee State Library and Archives. It is the diary of Anna M. Lowe (born 1846), the youngest daughter of Gideon Harris and Delana Dowlen Lowe. After the war, she attended school at Corona Institute for Young Ladies at Lebanon, Tennessee. Her brother, Gideon Harris Lowe Jr. "Giddie" was a captain in the 18th Tennessee Volunteer Infantry, known as the "Ashland City Guards."

February 13th, 1864 Iron this morning. Attend Bro. Crawford's appointment for preaching. Cousin Ann and Sackie come up to church. Good many Federals (troops) at Mr. Crockett's. Sew this evening.

February 14th A very dull, gloomy day, which corresponds very well with my feelings. Have the "blues" so bad. Reading and writing all day. Cousin Ann and Tishie ride down to the river to meet Sis Bet and Sis Lou; but they did not come. Cousin Marina Binkley returns with them. They also went to see Mrs. Lenox's twin babies.

February 15th Bro. William brings Sister Bet and Sis Lou to the river this morning, but the wind blew so they couldn't cross. They cross late in the evening and get home before dark. Sis Bet brings the baby which I have never seen before.

February 17th It is bitter cold today. Sis Bet is taken sick in the evening with severe headache. I sit and nurse the baby till near midnight.

February 19th Mrs. Manuals (an Irish lady in the neighborhood) child died last night. Sackie and I go over this morning and spend the day with her.

February 20th I have been almost sick today. Pop some corn for the children. Miss Mary Binkley and her brother from Charlotte get her for dinner. Brother William comes this evening. Sis Bet very sick.

February 27th About 100 Federals stop at the gate, wanted a horse but Bro. Smith talked them out of it. Captain from Iowa in command. Double threads to make plough lines.

February 28th Bro. Smith goes over home. Finish reading "The Keepsake" by Hadley. Miss Mary and I walk down to the river with the children in the evening, turns very cold.

March 1st Snowing this morning, the trees breaking down with their load of ice. Have a bad headache in the morning, but well this evening. The sun shone but a few minutes, and the ice glittered like gems, it was one of the most beautiful scenes I ever saw. Harpeth very high, so Sis Bet can't get home today.

March 5th Today is the election of county officers. All those who vote are obliged to take the oath of amnesty. I hope we will not be much longer thus oppressed by the Yankee invaders.

March 9th Have quite a "kick-up" this morning with Harriett (a slave, ed.), tried to run away. Spin and watch turkeys to nests. Bro. Smith plants some Irish potatoes.

March 10th Edith and Tony Speight spend the day with us. Sis Bet working in the garden, plant peas, onions etc.

March 13th, Sunday. Reading "Life of Franklin." Walk with Sis Bet and children on the bluff.

March 14th Spinning all day. Felix Smith stays all night, tells us of Ellen Gallagher's marriage, one of my schoolmates.

March 19th Warp the cloth for our Balmoral skirts. Got a letter from Aunt Ellen Carr, she says Cousin Jimmy got as far as the river on his way home from the Army; started over in a canoe by himself and has never been heard of since.

March 27th Bro. Smith goes with a load of wheat to mill. Eleven Federals arrive here after night from Clarksville to subpoena him to the trial of the men who stole some horses from him last summer. Forrest (General Nathan Bedford Forrest, ed.) took and burned Paducah last Saturday, after having secured the Army stores and some prisoners. Morgan (General John Hunt Morgan, ed.) gone into Kentucky again.

April 3rd Attend church at Mt. Liberty, Mr. Watkins preached an excellent sermon from the fourth commandment.

April 4th Cousin Tom Williams and Miss Fannie Balthrop were married last Tuesday.

April 10th Tishie and Tony go out to Cross Roads to church. Mr. and Mrs. Crockett and Miss Jennie Sayers call. Walk with Sis Tenn and the children. Get some beautiful flowers.

April 11th Tishie and I go down to Mrs. Crockett's. Beginning Latin lessons which Mrs. Crockett has offered to teach me.

April 18th Go down to Mrs. Crockett's but she is quite sick so I didn't recite my lesson. Mrs. Crockett expects to leave for Williamson Wednesday.

April 20th Sis Tenn and Sackie come home. I stop at Jim Lenox's and stay till evening. Sis Tenn brings the children down to Ashland to have their pictures taken. Have Mollie's picture put in my breastpin.

April 24th Attend church at Rose Bower, Mr. Strathrup preaches.

April 25th Sis Kit carried Miriam down to Uncle Jim's to school. Uncle Sandy and I have a nice race, he in his buggy and I on a mule.

Continued next issue.

NOVEMBER 20, 2003 6:00 – CCHGA meeting at Cheatham County Public Library

Autobiography of S. J. Morris, Ashland City, Tennessee, February 26, 1970 - submitted by Lisa Walker Tinch

This is January 1970, I am recording something of my life. I am eighty years old, was born December 22, 1889, in the fourth district of Cheatham County on a farm three miles East of Thomasville and four miles West of Pleasant View. My Father was Byron Morris, my mother was Martha Elizabeth Maxey. My Father had one brother, Bailey Morris, three sisters, Ida Allen, Ema Storey and Jennie Dillard. I can't remember too much about Dad's father and mother or my grandparents on his side, but Will Morris and Martha Felts were their names. Mother had three sisters and three brothers, Suzanne Smith, Williamson Walker and Maude Hewitt, Bailey, Green and George Maxey. All are dead and long since gone to their rewards.

My Dad was a hard working man and died early at the age of fifty six with heart failure. Mother lived to be eighty nine. I can't remember too much about her parents, George Maxey and Martha Durham. I can remember Grandmother was blind and sat by the chimney and smoked a clay pipe filled with homemade tobacco.

My early school days were at Poplar Ridge and Glenwood. Teachers were Uncle Frank Hewitt and his sister Edna Hewitt, George Mitchell and Miss Allie Hunt. Later on I attended the Link High School at Thomasville and went one term at Pleasant View, also one term at Ashland City. My teachers at Thomasville were the Link family, Jake Link, Belle Link and brother in law Sterling Brewer.

I have three brothers and two sisters, Turner, Bryant, and Porter Morris, May Bidwell and Martha Baggett. Their ages range from sixty to eighty years. We are all living and belong to the Methodist Church and trying to live a Christian life. As long as I can remember, I wanted to be good boy and at the age of twelve years I joined the Church at Mallory's. At the present time, after sixty eight years in the Church, we are enjoying the fellowship with the Ashland City Methodist Congregation and next to my home life, my church life has meant more than anything else I can imagine.

I started out early in my teens courting the gals. I had admirers on every corner for miles around. For several years I played that game then I decided to slow down and pick out the one I wanted for my wife. George and Etta Hunt, in the Lockertsville Community had three girls. I selected Nannie Mai, a seventeen year old, sweet, beautiful and lovely girl.

She was also a member of the Methodist Church. For three years we dated, learned to know and love each other more. She was twenty and I was twenty three when on October 12, 1912, we decided to marry. Brother J. D. Hudgens tied the knot that still holds us together until death do us part.

We lived with my parents for the first year after we were married, then moved to the little house across the road we called the weaning house. For three years we lived there and during that three years Paul and Dorris were born, sixteen months between their ages. During the three years there, I farmed under the supervision of my father, the same as the other boys in my family. Then we purchased forty five acres for \$1800.00 near Cheap Hill, built and moved in. The land was poor, living was hard to come by, but we had good neighbors and my Dad helped us until we paid out. In the mean time Uncle Tom Williams, who lived on an adjoining farm, sold us twelve acres joining our place for \$200.00. Then I stayed on the farm for about six years. The boys were school age. We had a gentle sorrel mare, that the boys rode to Cheap Hill to school. My Dad had giving them a pair of saddle pockets they carried their lunch and books to school in. G. A. Chambliss, a blacksmith was shoeing the mare one day and spied the saddle bags and accused the boys of bootlegging, they took him seriously and didn't have much use for him thereafter.

While I was teaching my third term of school at Poplar Ridge in the summer of 1924, P. G. Walker, surprised me by asking me if I would consider taking the management of the Farmer's Mercantile Company, in Ashland City. It was only two years old and struggling to exist. The price was \$40.00 per month, the same price I was being paid for teaching. I accepted the offer and P. G. Walker and other directors then serving for Farmer's Mercantile Company elected me for the job and we moved in the late Fall of 1924, worked with A. J. Felts, the manager for two months until January 1, 1925, when my first year began.

We moved on Maple Street, next door to where we now live. We moved chickens, milk cow, and set up housekeeping.

Around thirty years prior to the death of my mother, father was buried in an unkept, out of the way, cemetery. After mother's burial in a new well kept cemetery, back of Mallory's Church, we had father's remains removed and placed beside mother's grave. A move we children have ever since been proud.

Now, back to our move to Ashland City. I want to review some of our home life before I take up the operations of the store.

Continued next issue.

Note: This letter was submitted by Ola Vaughan. Alice Ophelia Hagewood and Edward Preston Tatum were married December 27, 1896. She was born March 14, 1877 in Cheatham County. She died June 13, 1962. Edward Preston Tatum was born September 11, 1861 and died October 22, 1912. They are buried in the Hagewood-Hand Cemetery in Cheatham County. Ophelia remarried to Robert Allen Fambrough after E.P. Tatum's death. Robert Fambrough died January 14, 1967 and is buried in the Neptune Smith Cemetery in Cheatham County.

At home
August 1896

Miss Ophelia,

Dearest darling, I guess will be somewhat surprised to rec this note from me but I hope it will be a pleasant surprise dear. I wanted to see you real bad tonight but as I am deprived of that sweet pleasure, I will try to console myself the best I can by writing to you dear sweet one. Ah yes my darling I am the unhappiest one on earth, the thoughts of having to try to live three years without you dear breaks my heart, ah dear if you love me how can you hurt me. So long dear that seems like a lifetime to me and makes the future dark. I know I can't live that long without you dear. May I ask if one year from Christmas next will not suit you dear. Please reconsider and gratify that one request of the best friend you have on earth one that would sacrifice his life for you if you will be mine one year from next Christmas. I will try to console myself the best I can and make the best of life possible. Dear I hope you are not as sad as I am. I trust your life is sweet and pleasant and your future will be bright as sunshine. I will call Sunday eve to go with you to Sunday school if you are doing dear as it is late I will not attempt to say anymore at present.

Lovingly your weeping friend till death.

E. P. Tatum

P. S. a letter from you will be appreciated anytime as early as convenient. God bless you dear one.

An Interesting Will Case - *submitted by Greg Poole*

(David W. Knight was born in New York in 1815. In the 1880 Cheatham County Census, he was living in the 9th District. His adopted daughter, Adeline, born 1871, was living in the same household. Ed.)

The case of D.W. Knight et als vs P.A. Adkisson et al, has been pending in the Circuit Court of Cheatham County since Monday last. So far about 30 witnesses have been examined and there are about that many depositions to be read, and several more witnesses to be heard. In fact nearly all the residents of the 25th District of Davidson County and Cheatham County are witnesses. It is a contested will case, James P. Adkisson and wife and H.C. Drake and wife being the contestants, and D.W. Knight and Adeline Saunders knight, his adopted daughter, the plaintiffs.

The will is that of Margaret R. Knight, wife of D.W. Knight, who lives near Ashland City, Cheatham County, and was made in the summer of 1877, the testator dying in the fall of that year. The attesting witnesses were S.S. Knight and E.E. Cullum. The latter has since died. The property in controversy is a farm near the Cheatham County line, and worth between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The contestants claim that the will is a forgery, while the plaintiffs insist that it is genuine. Many novel law points have been presented in the case. Nashville *Daily American*, March 7, 1879.

Kingston Springs: A Short Sketch - *submitted by Greg Poole*

About 1200 years ago, historic records disclose that indigenous American people migrated into the Kingston Springs area and settled near the banks of the Harpeth River and Turnbull Creek. It may be that the various sulphur springs located throughout the region drew these early residents to the area, which in future years would be known as Kingston Springs. These Indians of the Mississippian Era hunted, made pottery and buried their dead in slate lined graves, creating mounds that continue to sculpt the Cheatham County landscape. The oldest known settler in Kingston Springs was Lewis Dunn. He and his family settled on the Harpeth River in 1807. An advertisement in the *Nashville Union and American* in 1855 announced that the sulphur springs in Kingston Springs were ready to accommodate visitors. These mineral springs produced white, black and red sulphur water. A large inn or tavern which was constructed in 1819 near these springs to serve those taking advantage of their healing qualities, continued to be the primary local attraction throughout the next decade. In 1860, the railroad was extended from Nashville to Kingston Springs. Subsequently, in 1862 the railroad was further extended from Kingston Springs to Waverly, TN. These actions encouraged a substantial amount of growth within the community. From 1880 to the beginning of the 20th century, a commuter train named "the Accomodation" ran short hops to and from Nashville bringing a multitude of guests to "the Springs". Timber was the primary cash crop for many years, with trains carrying timber from the lumber mill within the community to consumers in Nashville. At one time this local lumber mill covered up to five acres of land. In 1865, the Kingston Springs Post Office opened, and by 1886 there were two general stores operating within the Town. The Vanderbilt Preparatory School, which opened its doors in the early 1900's, became the first private educational facility within the community. Accordingly, the first public school in Kingston Springs opened in 1915. The advent of the automobile in the early 1900's gradually led Kingston Springs into becoming a residential community rather than the resort spot for which it was once famous. Kingston Springs was legally incorporated in 1965. In 1970, the Town had a total population of 312. Since then it has largely become a "bedroom community" for the City of Nashville. As of 1997, the Town has become one of the ten fastest growing communities in Tennessee. From Tennessee Department of Economic Development

Historic Sam's Creek - submitted by Greg Poole

(The following excerpt is from an article appearing in the *Nashville American* of October 11, 1903 by Octavia Zollicoffer Bond. Octavia Zollicoffer Bond, 1846-1941, was a Tennessee author and a daughter of the famous Confederate general, Felix K. Zollicoffer. Ed.)

Within 20 miles of Nashville in the ninth district of Cheatham County, is an almost forgotten fountain of healing water, which was known as the Saratoga of the state. In earliest pioneer days, Sam Feeling built his cabin on the stream into which it flows, and from the fountain and the stream took the name of Sam's Creek and Sam's Creek Springs. Soon after Feeling came Riggan from North Carolina. In course of time visitors from surrounding country began to resort into the place to drink of the spring which was discovered to be a cure all for the ills of the flesh and Riggan's double log cabin naturally became a house of entertainment for those who came in search of health.

"Riggan's Tavern" still stands on the wayside within two miles of this Mecca of invalids. His son and successor, John Riggan, nearly 89 years of age, rarely takes in travelers now, but he delights in telling the curious visitor of today of the good times past and gone.

It was in the beginning of the 19th century that Giles Harding (father of General Harding of Belle Meade) with his kinsmen, Morris, Tom and William Harding, William Lytle, Isaac Watkins, Joe Clay, McGavock and Raworth built a log cabin within a stone's throw of the healing fountain. Their lodge in the wilderness was known far and wide as "Old Hunter's Hall." For many years it was used as trysting place by them and their successors in the chase. The buck horns nailed above the door to symbolize its character only faintly indicated the scenes within. Often did hundreds of dollars in gold change hands over a poker table in the center of the room.

As years went by one set of hunters followed another. In the year 1835, it became necessary to replace the old lodge, which was falling into decay, with a "New Hunter's Hall." The one which is still standing today.

The land immediately surrounding the spring was "wild land." It had never been taken up by entry or grant. It was the hunter's intentions to leave the land free forever to all comers. But in 1826, Tennessee passed a "no cent" law which made grants of 5,000 acres of land in that section free of charge to all who would enter them.

The hunter's were started to learn of a man who did not share their interests was on the eve of making an entry which would include the mineral spring, with a view to erecting a large hotel. Prompt action alone could prevent a complete change. A hasty consultation followed and immediately a runner was started to Nashville. Eleven acres of land surrounding the healing spring were entered in the names of Raworth, Harding and Watkins. As condition of the gift, it was stipulated that no hotel or saloon should ever be permitted within its limits and the property was for all time exempted from taxation. Some years ago an effort was made by Cheatham County to sell it for taxes, it having been assessed to the Watkins' heirs, who failed or refused to pay taxes imposed, but the attempt failed, as on investigation it proved to be non-taxable land belonging to the people of Tennessee.

Should you arrive at the spring, first you may select a home from a collection of 16 or 18 simple cottages of upright planks. The wagon that brought your bedding and cooking utensils halts near the spring on the margin of the creek. To your left is a balustrade foot bridge leading across the stream into the porch of a cabin on the other bank.

The convenience of creek and balustrade for laundry proposes is self-evident, so crossing the shallow stream, you climb the opposite hill, passing on your way "coffee spring," from the crystal waters of which all cooking is done, in order to spare the slender streams, which feed the basin of the mineral spring.

Perched against the bluff is a commodious cabin, 2, 3 or 4 rooms. True, its floors slant frankly with the slope of the hill, suggesting the possibility of "shooting the chutes," down the central passage, across the porch, and over the cliff into the creek below. One must not be too particular, considering the house is rent free and partly furnished. In the hall that is intended for a reception and dining room is an ample table of unplanned plank. Benches on either side do away with the need of chairs and in the other rooms it is likely you will find bedsteads of the variety that are nailed to the wall.

Concludes next issue.

10th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes
presented by CCHGA, November 30,
2003, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Bethel
Community on Hwy 12 going toward
Clarksville.

1. Bethel Free Will Baptist Church
2. Home of Pam Brown
3. Home of Perry and Linda Tilghman
4. Home of Fred and Rosemary Tedescucci
5. Home of Ray and Cathy Holland
6. Home of Andy and Melody Fleming



Tickets \$8.00
Call CCHGA office for more information!

News from the Communities - submitted by Greg Poole

Ashland City: Matt Allen and John Eatherly had an altercation Wednesday and resulted in Eatherly stabbing Allen in the back with a knife. They had had some words over the posting of a cow. Allen told Eatherly he would whip him, and Eatherly replied 'do it.' Allen was on his horse, and as he alighted Eatherly gave him a very hard dig in the back with his knife. Chairs and rocks were afterwards used but the combatants were separated. Allen's wound is very painful but not thought to be dangerous. *Nashville Daily American*, November 20, 1887.

**William Sanders, a clever farmer, living just beyond the Cumberland from Ashland City, accidentally shot himself last Sunday afternoon. His gun was a musket, loaded with No. 1 shot, in setting the gun down at or near the home of T.B. Pardue, a neighbor, the hammer struck a rock and the gun was discharged and the entire load entered his face. Dr. R.P. Dozier was soon at the bedside of the unfortunate man, and while the wound is painful, we understand the Doctor says it is not necessarily fatal. *Nashville Daily American*, December 4, 1887.

**The Ashland Institute is doing well under the principal ship of Professor John W. Osbourne. He is a young man, a graduate of Montgomery Bell of Nashville, and is giving satisfaction both to pupils and parents. *Nashville Daily American*, December 9, 1887.

**A considerable land trade was consummated a few days ago in Cheatham County. The Tennessee Lumber Company, which owns several hundred acres of timber land on the southside of the river from Ashland City, sold out to a Chicago company. The amount paid was about \$30,000. *Nashville Daily American*, December 9, 1887.

**J.J. Lee Esq. has moved from Ashland City to Orlando, Florida. He intends to make this place his future home. *Nashville Daily American*, Jan. 9, 1888.

**Mrs. Nannie Miles died Friday at her home 3 miles from Ashland City. She was the wife of Thomas Miles and was about 40 years of age. She is survived by her husband and two sons. *Nashville American*, Oct. 11, 1903.

**Ashland City can boast of another new enterprise, which was recently placed in permanent operation. It is the new sawmill plant of J.L. Lenox and Co., which has the capacity of about 10,000 feet of hardwood lumber per day and plans to continue the enterprise for several years. They will employ a good number of men in operating the plant, cutting and hauling the timber and stacking lumber. *Nashville American*, June 26, 1904.

Cheap Hill: A number of places in Cheatham County were visited by severe storm Sunday afternoon, which did considerable damage to crops and timber. The neighborhood of Cheap Hill and Thomasville suffered more than any other. Growing corn was blown down and wheat shocks demolished. *Nashville American*, June 26, 1904.

Hagewood's Landing: Henry Aderhold, the man who created a sensation with his floating saloon on the Cumberland River, is at it again. His boat is at Hagewood's Landing in Cheatham County. Aderhold was arrested last July for selling whiskey and was bound over to the Federal court. He had a government license for selling whiskey at Hagewood's Landing, but not a river or steamboat license. He claims he is doing business on a public highway. *Nashville Daily American*, November 25, 1887.

Henrietta: Dr. Will Walton died at his home Saturday afternoon in Cheatham County after a lingering illness, of dropsy. He was buried in the Hunter Burying Grounds Sunday with funeral services conducted by the Rev. W.I. Harper. Dr. Walton was 55 years old and was a son of the Rev. Isaac B. Walton, being reared where he died. He is survived by his wife and one son, Lucien Walton of Nashville. Dr. Walton was a successful physician and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. He had one brother, Dr. Charles Walton of Ashland City, who is well known in Clarksville and vicinity. A large number attended the funeral. *Clarksville Leaf Chronicle*, January 3, 1910.

Pond Creek: Mrs. Clementine Lovell of the Pond Creek neighborhood, died Wednesday, aged 88 years. She was a daughter of the late John Hooper, who lived to be 98 years of age. She is survived by one son and five daughters in Cheatham and Davidson Counties. *Nashville American*, July 2, 1904.



House No. 6 on the Christmas Home Tour is owned by Andy and Melody Fleming. The 6800 square foot beautiful brick home was built in 2000 located on top of a hill surrounded by 138 acres. The foyer with its custom built wrought iron and oak spiral stairway spans two stories. With an open floor plan, the living room, dining room and foyer are visible from the front entrance. A baby grand piano is the showpiece of this room.



No. 3 on the Christmas Home Tour, this is the home of Perry and Linda Tilghman. It is believed the house was built by Thomas and Mary (Gupton) Hunter, daughter of Abner Gupter, an early pioneer in the area. Thomas died in 1836 and is buried along with Mary in the cemetery behind the house. Over time, other property owners were "Yankee" Tom Hunter, Dr. Isaac Baker Walton, Robert Herald, Wright Handley and Linda Tilghman's parents, Edwin and Mildred Rust.

Completed in 2003, this Southern style colonial mansion owned by Fred and Rosemary Tedescucci is House No. 4 on the Christmas Home Tour . There is about 5200 square feet under roof with a two storied pillared veranda across the front of the house and two screened-in porches in the rear. Numerous windows in all the rooms are left uncovered to let in light. Four brick fireplaces are in the home.



CCHGA BYTES

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