

NEELY NARRATIVE

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GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

NEELY NARRATIVE

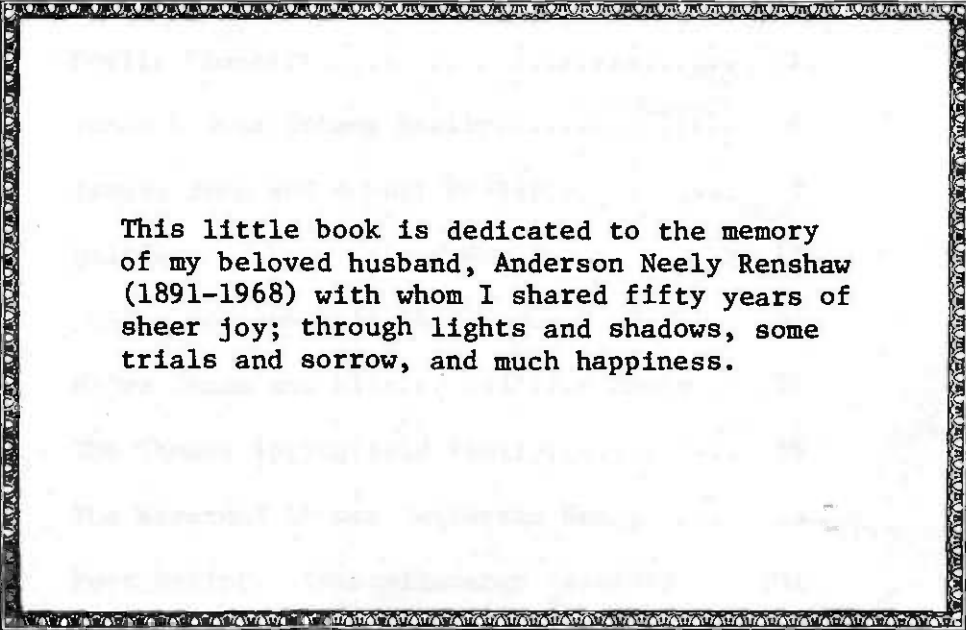
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This little book is dedicated to the memory
of my beloved husband, Anderson Neely Renshaw
(1891-1968) with whom I shared fifty years of
sheer joy; through lights and shadows, some
trials and sorrow, and much happiness.

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Foreword

I have endeavored to obtain as much information as possible about this interesting family, the descendents of James (1) Neelly and his wife, Jane Grimes, giving special attention to the Reverend Thomas Jefferson Neely, a colorful personality whose life spanned the nineteenth century.

I have had much help from many chroniclers of early days in Southwest Virginia. I also owe a debt of gratitude to many Neelys living today, the pleasure and privilege of whose acquaintance I should not have made but for their kind assistance in the quest that has culminated in this little publication. They will be gratefully acknowledged by name in the pages of this book.

I trust that any errors will be pointed out to me. My intention has been to give useful, factual information to the present generation of this family. But errors are inevitable. In fact, a shadow on my pleasure in researching and writing about the Neelys occurred when I discovered that a compiler of 'Kentucky Neely' data had, on P. 3 of her book, somehow lifted from Tennessee records the names of our Grandpa (Rev. T. J. Neely), his brother, Dr. Philip P. Neely, their parents and grandparents, incorporating them into a group whose given names and places of abode were unlike our early Virginia Neelys. An attempt on my part to assist in rectifying this error has been ineffective, therefore it became necessary for me to call upon The Genealogical Society of the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints, of Salt Lake City, Utah, known the world over for their accuracy as well as their honesty in genealogy, for assistance in retrieving my husband's, and our children's, ancestors from this publicized error.

After several months of careful examination of records, their conclusions were reported to me. In the interest of brevity I shall not give their entire report here, but will make it available to anyone on request. Relevant portions are:

"Dear Mrs. Renshaw:...Your husband's great grandfather was (Major) James Neelly and he was born 24 Dec 1773 and died 17 Apr 1842... (He) was the son of William Neelly by Mary Friend and...was born in Botetourt County, Va. Major James Neelly and Eleanor Phillips were married 27 Apr 1797...Eleanor Phillips was born 10 Feb 1782...She was the daughter of Philip Phillips and wife, Susannah...

"The James Neely, Jr. (on p. 3 of the book in question) may, as stated, well be the son of James Neely and Ann...that James Neely must of necessity be someone other than your husband's great grandfather. Likewise, his wife, Nelly, under those circumstances, could not be the same as your husband's great grandmother, Eleanor Phillips...I firmly believe that you have established conclusively that your husband's great grandfather, James Neely, is without question the son of William Neelly, definitely belong to your husband's family and should not be listed in the family named on the (other) Neely book."

Where genealogical data is given, I have used the following abbreviations in the interest of brevity:

a - acre	fa - father	nc - no children
b - born	fam - family	pt - parent
bro - brother	gr - great	sis - sister
bur - buried	grch - grandch	sol - soldier
ca - about	(ildren)	wf - wife
cem - cemetery	grgrfa - great	1/wf - first wife
cen - census	grandfather	2/wf - second wife
ch - child (ren).	grmor - grand	wld - widow
childhood	mother	Rev - Revolution
Co - County	grpt - grand-	CW - Civil War
d - died	parents	
dau - daughter	hus - husband	
div - divorced	mor - mother	

Again I thank the many Neelys who have encouraged me and given valuable assistance to me in this effort.

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ed,

NEELLY PIONEERS

According to tradition, three Neelly brothers came to America from Ireland shortly after the struggle for the Crown. They had probably and been in Ireland for several generations, emigrating from their native iam Scotland during the Ulster Plantation, therefore of Scotch-Irish extraction. Some family genealogists say they were the sons of Rufus Neelly, of County Tyrone, in Northern Ireland. Records show that they settled in Ulster and Orange Counties in New York. Neelytown, in Ulster tia County, New York, is recorded as the home of Robert Neelly, who died there in 1756, naming in his WILL his wf Isabel; ch Addam, William, David, Matthew, Mary. Brothers, William and John.

So, Robert, William and John Neelly probably are our three immigrant brothers. John was a co-exec of the WILL of one John Smith, dec 1755, and Robert (who d the next yr) was a witness of the same WILL, this being one yr before his d. Capt. William Neel(1)y, Wallkil prec., Ulster Co d 1769, left WILL naming, "dau Sarah; Martha, wf of Benj. Hains, who has ch: John, William and Elizabeth Hains; Elizabeth Harlow; grch William, Henry and Elizabeth Harold (note-probably Harlow, a Court Clerk error) Exec, son William. Wit Thomas Neely."

I found no record of the death of John. Already one 'l' is being omitted from the name by Court recorders. This problem will be with us until the nineteenth century, when practically all the family has succumbed to the idea of changing to 'Neely'.

ble

Of the descendents of these brothers, James Neelly is our first documented ancestor. Our first record is his m to Jane Grimes (or Grymes) in Christ Church, Philadelphia, 23 May 1740. Soon afterward, they left the security of the eastern coastal area, settled more than a century earlier, for a journey to the newly created (1737) Augusta County, Virginia.

We have little knowledge of the Grimes family. Jane's cousin John Grimes, of Burlington County, New Jersey, unm, d in 1745.

His WILL named a brother, William Grimes, and cousins Jane Neelly and Sarah Neelly as legatees. Jane's legacy was, "All debts owed to me in Virginia". Sarah must have been Jane's sister and their home Burlington County, New Jersey. (Jane and James Neelly named their two daus Jane and Sarah). Sarah Grimes had also m a Neelly. In

Burlington Co marriage records we find, "John Nelly (only one 'e', as was James' on his marriage record in Philadelphia), of Burlington, m Sarah Grimes 19 Aug 1742". I presume that these two Neellys, or Nellys, or Neelys were brothers.

This Neely family seemed to have come into White Plains, New York, (Orange Co) and lived in Orange, Ulster and Dutchess Counties and then to New Jersey and Philadelphia. Later the branch that included David and Matthew in their given names went south to Kentucky after the Indians had been somewhat subdued, and the descendents whose favorite name was Thomas went to North Carolina, but James and Jane were perhaps the first to go, and the "debts due me in Virginia" referred to in John Grimes' WILL could well have been a loan made to the newlyweds in 1740, for their trip into the wilderness, and not yet repaid.

For some capital was needed for a man to take a wife into the wild mountainous country, inhabited by hostile Indians, with horses, pack mules, farm implements and tools and with supplies enough to build a shelter and survive until a crop could be made.

The Indians' hunting grounds were being encroached upon in the Allegheny by these Colonial settlers and by the French who were believed to be beginning to push eastward from their Mississippi River posts. A relative, John Neelly, perhaps older than James, with his wf Elizabeth, who may have had a family already, came at or near the same time, the land records show. Samuel Neelly's name was on the roster of the local militia, then no more was heard of him.

As early as 1716 Virginia's Governor Spottswood had conducted an expedition into this virgin territory and had given wide publicity, both in the Colonies and in Europe, to the desirability of the area. Settlement had been given further impetus by the making of land grants of enormous proportions. Some "speculators" (Land Companies) were given as much as a hundred thousand acres which they surveyed and sold to the wave of Scotch-Irish traders, farmers, teachers, adventurers and later, when the wilderness had been sufficiently tamed, to the less adverturous Germans from Pennsylvania, for their homes.

This land speculation, which was not permitted in our Western home-steading more than a century later, was looked upon with favor at this time as a means of encouraging more rapid settlement.

When the Neellys arrived in 1740, there were more than fifty families in the large area. A militia had been organized and court set up, as the Countyseat was quite remote from the settlement. James Neelly was a Justice of the Augusta County Court in 1742 (Pat. BK 30, p. 243) and in 1755.

James had choice selections of land, we are told. Starting with 200 a at the mouth of Mason's, or Neelly's Creek, he added tracts of land from time to time until his holdings dotted the neighborhood.

John, his relative, also had choice grants totaling 556 a along Peter's Creek and added other large tracts. His home was on the "Bryan Cuff-Joseph Love land, west of Edward McDonald's." They were in different Districts so that the duplication of given names was not as confusing in the records as it was to be in Tennessee.

John died in 1776, apparently at a good age. In his WILL he left his wife, Elizabeth, "the privilege of living on the place and to be found bread, milk and meal and other necessities and conveniences". Issue as named in the WILL:

1. Robert Neelly. To have forty pounds out of Andrew's part for clearing Andrew's land. wf Anna. He d 1780;
2. John, Jr. To have the 150 a where he lived and 15 a at the foot of his father's land, adjoining Wm. Breckenridge's land, and L150 in cash;
3. Andrew. To have the rest of the land, a clock and two work horses;
4. Elizabeth, wf of Michael Cloyd (b 1735 and son of David Cloyd), To have the negro girl, Sarah;

Gr-dau Betsy Neelly, a colt & Gr-son Samuel Neelly a horse.

James and Jane Grimes Neelly

The Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely (Grandpa Neely) did not know the given name of his immigrant ancestor. He having been told that his father's grandfather Neelly came from Ireland and settled in Botetourt County, Virginia. He had four sons, John, James, Robert, and William. William was T. J. Neely's grandfather and the other three would have been known by him since they all came to Middle Tennessee when he was a child living on his Grandfather William's farm.

Research into Court records and early histories of Augusta County have yielded much information about James Neelly, whom we met on the very first page of this narrative. They were of Scottish origin; had gone to Ireland, perhaps early in the seventeenth century, and to America on the migration wave of the early eighteenth century. They were staunch Presbyterians. Meetings were held in their new homes, with traveling preachers visiting at intervals as late as 1755. Specific mention is recorded that the Parish minister, the Rev. John Jones, was to preach at the home of James Neelly on the Roanoke River.

Examples of the Neelly activities taken from Augusta County Court records are:

- 1746- Isaac Bane (Bean) died. James Neelly and Irwin Patterson were appraisers of the estate;
- 1750- William Alexander's appraisement was made by James Neelly, Thomas Tosh and William Akers;
- 1753- Patrick Lynch's appraisement was made by James Neelly, William Bryan and Henry Brown;
- 1756- John Neelly and William McClanahan were named guardians of Susannah Griffith, a minor;
- 1757- James Neelly was a Justice in the community on the James and Roanoke Rivers;
- 1755- Susanna Evens chose William McClanahan as her guardian; Catherine Evans chose James Neelly as her guardian. (Catherine later married James Neelly and Susannah married John, sons of James (1) Neelly;

1769- That part of Augusta County between the James and Roanoake Rivers became a separate County and was named in honor of Lord Botetourt, of England, who had recently been appointed Governor of Virginia;

1770- John Neelly, Sr., and Edward Springer "view" certain roads;

1771- John Neelly, Sr., Michael Cloyd and others viewed the road through Tosh's Ford over Bent Mountain to view the way from Robert Breckenridge's, through Greely's Gap to Bedford Road;

1771, 2, and later John, Jr., and others have taken these tasks.

John, Sr., getting old and died a few years later, as we have recorded. There is no doubt that James and John Neelly were men of influence in their communities, as were their children in turn.

I have no documentary record of the birth dates of the children of James and Jane Grimes Neelly but the following are believed by other Neelys to be correct:

1. James. b 1741 m Catherine Evens, dau of Daniel and Rhoda Griffith Evans and gr-dau of Mark Evans, one of the earliest settlers;
2. John. b 1743 m Susanna Evans, sister of Catherine;
3. Robert. b 1745 He succeeded his fa as Capt of their Militia Regiment in 1784. His family not well documented since John (1) also had son Robert (identical names already beginning to be confusing), but T. J. Neely, who remembered his gr-unc, said, "He went to Maury County (Tenn.), d there and was bur in Mt. Pleasant;"
4. Jane. b 1747 m Philip Love, who d in Box Co., Va. 1790. nc.
5. William. b 1749 gr-fa of T. J. Neely m (1) "Mary Friend, partly of Welsh descent, on the eastern shore of Maryland," (T.J.N. quote); (2) Mary Nash (Not documented but believed to be correct) Mary Friend was mother of his children;
6. Sarah. b 1751 m William McClanahan 7 Mar 1789. They remained in Virginia where they reared a large family and were prominent and influential citizens; he d 1824.

There is evidence that Jane Grimes Neelly died in 1776. At this time James (1) gave most of his land to Jane and Philip Love and a 49 a portion of the home place to William. I have been told of a letter of emotional character written by James at that time to daughter Jane (the letter said to be extant), the inference being that James' wife had died and in his sorrow he had divested himself of most of their property.

Military service was taken seriously in Colonial days. The young men in this service were the sons of the landowners of the community, as a glance at the rosters will attest. For the American colonists had no use for a standing army, especially King George's army. Therefore, in post-Revolution days all able-bodied citizens between the ages of 18 and 45 years and not in the regular army were subject to call for military duty, providing their own weapons. And we find the Botetourt County roster listing many of the young Neellys and related families, the older men faithfully serving as officers. The officers had additional duties; often called upon to collect taxes, etc., each having his own community, or District to serve.

For instance, in 1772, Capt. F. Smith's list of tithables included:

John Neelly, 1; Andrew Neelly, 1; John Neelly, (Jr.), 2.

Capt. J. Brown: James Neelly, 4; John Neelly, 2.

Capt. John Bowman: James Neelly, 3; John Neelly, 2; William Neelly, 3, and so on.

One gets an idea here of the confusing duplications of names, but their locations in the various Districts was an aid in distinguishing one from the other.

Kegley says that it was perfectly natural that James Neelly should be the overseer of the roads through his community; that he should be called upon frequently to appraise the property of his neighbors; that he should be one of the first settlers to have religious services in his home; that he should be a large landholder and for a long time be Captain of his Company.

James Neelly resigned his post as Captain of his Company in 1784, as I have said, and was succeeded by his son, Robert. This record convinces us that it was Robert, son of John (1) who died in 1780, left WILL naming wf, Ann, and their ch. Robert, son of James (1), lived to migrate with his brothers to Tennessee.

JAMES (2), JOHN AND ROBERT NEELLY.

Since family historians believe that Samuel (3) Neelly, son of James (2) and Catherine Neelly, who married his first cousin, Sarah Neelly, was the son-in-law of William (2) Neelly, I shall give some information about the James-Catherine line, leaving the question of whether the wife of Samuel was actually proved to be the daughter of William for another chapter.

Catherine Evans' gr-fa, Mark Evans, was a very early settler and had selected some of the best land and water supplies in the area. He was enlisted in Capt. Robertson's Company, Virginia Militia, 1742. He died four years later, one of the most prosperous men in his community. His sons were Daniel, Peter and Nathaniel Evans.

Daniel, as heir-at-law and administrator, settled the estate, Feb 1748, and sold to Peter the land on Evans Spring Branch. Mark Evans' inventory is interesting since it demonstrates the paucity of even the bare necessities, which was a common condition at this early date among the most prosperous settlers.

Mark Evans' Inventory:

Small items in the amount of L34 8/9;
an Old Library of 31 books;
A bull, 2 red cows, 2 brindled heifers, yellow cow, 4 bull calves;
3 sheep, small stack of wheat, a piece of a stack of rye;
1 old bay horse with a blaze, an old saddle;
A plow and irons, a harrow, an old iron and two axes;
Other old tools, an old broken cart, a cracked pot, a broken kettle with hangings.

These would be the things he brought with him for he had had no opportunity to increase his stock of tools or household comforts in keeping with his land holdings.

Daniel Evans lived at the home place until his death in 1755. In his WILL he mentioned his wife, Rhoda Drake Griffith Evans, and his two brothers. Susanna Griffith (presumably his step-dau) was to remain with Rhoda until she was 21 years of age. Daughters Susanna and Catherine Evans, minors, chose William McClanahan and James (1) Neelly as their guardians. Rhoda was still a widow in 1756 when a young surveyor-turned-soldier named Washington (Col. George, to be specific) lodged overnight

in her home on his return from visiting the "Southern Forts", this being at the time of the "French and Indian War."

James (2) Neelly and Catherine Evans m ca 1770. Issue:

1. Sarah Neelly b ca 1771
2. Andrew Neelly b ca 1773 d Feb 1839 Maury Co Tn. wf Jane b 1774 d 7 Oct 1844. Both bur Ebenezer Cem Maury Co;
3. Sophia Neelly b 1776 m (1) Isaac Leonard d Nashville 1800; (2) Ezekiel Polk, grfa of President Polk and author of his own famous epitaph;
4. Samuel Neelly b 1778 m Sarah Neelly, his cousin, in Williamson Co Tn.
5. George W. Neelly b 1780 (drowned in Miss. R. enroute to Arkansas) in 1821;
6. James Neelly b 1782 When his Uncle William Neelly d 2 Feb 1827 he was co-exec with William's son, James (3) Neelly (who had m Eleanor Phillips, of Davison Co. Tn. and then living in Henderson Co Tn) and Thomas J. Hardeman, William's grandson of Williamson Co. Tn.
7. Pallas Neely b ca 1785;
8. Charles Rufus Neelly b 1787 d 1820, Tuscumbia, Ala.;
9. Rhoda b 1789. A new name in the Neelly family. This was Catherine mother's name;
10. Jane Love Neelly b 1789 (were Rhoda and Jane twins?);
11. Catherine b 1791 The youngest of these ch were b in Burke Co , N. C. where James, John and Robert sojourned with their families for several years while making the transition from Botetourt Co., Va. to Tennessee and Alabama. James and John and their families are listed in the Burke Co., N. C. 1790 Census; James with 5 M, 1 over 16 yrs, and 6 F; John with 2 M, 1 over 16, and one F. Robert is listed in Halifax Co Va. in 1785 tax list on James Bates' list, with "5 white souls" and land with no buildings ;his m to Margaret Chissum (2 wf) 30 Sep 1790, Halifax Co., (signed her own consent).

James and Catherine, we see, had a large family, some of them ancestors of today's prominent families of Middle and West Tennessee, North Mississippi and Alabama. I shall mention again that historians of this line have in some instances made an error in the case of the third son, James, who was b, according to these records, in 1782 and who, they record, m Eleanor Phillips "about 1801". Then are given the names of eight of the ch of James, son of William Neelly, and his wf Eleanor, whom he m in Davison Co., Tn. 27 Apr 1797. Thomas J. Neely, listed with seven others of their ch, was indeed a son of James and Eleanor Neelly and was b in the home of his grfather William Neelly of Williamson Co , Tn., as is abundantly proved in this narrative.

I have given documented evidence of the above to several of the descendents of James (2) Neelly, all distinguished and responsible people. One of these, Mr. Sidney V. Neely, an educator of Southmost College, Brownsville, Texas (possibly retired) graciously acknowledged the error and has given me helpful information that I might not have found. I am sure all of these persons have placed the correction in their files.

John (2) Neelly came to Williamson Co , Tn. He had m Susanna Evans, sister of Catherine in Botetourt Co., Va. When he d in 1819, his eight ch, James, John, Sophia, Rhoda, William, Charles and Eliza were named in his WILL, with wf Jane. I do not know where Susanna d but I believe records unknown to me may be available in this line.

Robert Neelly was in Maury Co , Tn. in 1806. In the Maury Co. taxables, 1811, he had 1 poll, 1 slave. Robert Neelly bought several plots of land in the Cathey's Creek vicinity. In 1825 when he testified in a lawsuit between neighbors (Harris vs Groves), he was living on land he had bought from William Bradford in 1822. The 1830 Census ne showed Robert's family consisting of:

1 M +80 yrs; 1 F -20 yrs; 1 F +70 yrs, indicating that Robert must have d after this Census, leaving his widow and perhaps a granddau in the household. There is some conjecture here, Neelys were coming in from North Carolina, and since historians as well as court recorders spelled phonetically with no regard for accuracy, most of the spelling was 'Neely', the situation which caused the fourth generation to drop one 'l' from their name, as we shall see. The Rēv. T. J. Neely, who remembered these relatives from his childhood, said, "Robert settled in Maury County, d there and was bur near Mt. Pleasant".

I trust that their descendents have recorded their histories, although I have been able to find very little about them, a major hindrance being the preponderance of the names, James, John, Robert and William.

Many in these lines have been distinguished in various professions; they have intermarried with the families of two Presidents-Polk and Tyler-and generally have given a proud name to their children's children.

WILLIAM AND MARY FRIEND NEELLY

William (2) Neelly, believed to be the fourth son of James (1) and Jane Grimes Neelly, and to have been born in 1749, married "on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Miss Mary Friend who was of partly Welsh ancestry", to quote the Reverend T. J. Neely, reminiscing many years later about his paternal grandparents. Mr. Sidney V. Neely, who lays claim to two lines, James (2) and William (2), because of a first-cousin marriage, tells me that "the Friend family settled with Col. Reed's Company (Militia) in Southwest Virginia near Brushy Fork, sometime about 1740, or earlier, and was a part of the Welsh settlement".

I found Jonas Friend to be a Sgt. in Augusta, Co Va. Militia in 1758. Was this Jonas Friend, who m Sarah Skidmore, dau of Joseph and Agnes Caldwell Skidmore, who moved to Southwest Virginia in 1754, the father of Mary Friend?

Three members of the Friend family mentioned in Southwest Virginia records are:

Abraham Friend bought from Ezekiel Kelly and wf, "for valuable consideration" 102 a in Rich Valley. (Brf of D. of Washington Co Vol 1 p 436);

Tobias Friend m Margaret Harzberg 2 Nov 1775, Washington Co;

Jacob Friend, Land Grant 19 a, 1787, on South Branch, (Bk 1, p 187).

Could these three be brothers of Mary Friend, and sons of Jonas and Sarah Skidmore Friend? Mary and William named their second dau 'Sarah', which is significant. The Skidmores were "Eastern Shore" people and the Friends were Welsh (not German, which, I believe, was Grandpa Neely's point in commenting on Mary's Welsh ancestry). I believe that Jonas Friend was Mary Friend Neelly's father.

Grandpa Neely, who was twenty-three years of age when his grandfather, William, died, said, "William had two wives. He died in Franklin, Tennessee, and he and his consorts were buried there." I have been told that the second wife was Mary Nash, but I have no proof. The Nashes were in Williamson County at that time

(early 1800). I feel certain that Mary Friend was the first wife, that she died in Williamson County, possibly before 1813. The second wife would, of course, be the Mary mentioned in William's WILL, who may have lived to be very old, being the aged Female in the household of Anne Hardeman in the 1830 Census which interpretation will be explained later.

William and his brother James served in the Revolution with Capt John Murray's regiment from Botetourt Co. Va.; were in the Battles of Point Pleasant and King's Mountain. William also gave other assistance, among these being:

Supplying one beef, wt. 399 lbs. for which he received in money L5 sterling. Other supplies at other dates:

Taking and delivering gaol deserters and guarding them forty-four miles on two different occasions, there being four prisoners each time;

Ordered to join Mar. de Lafayette who led the Virginia troops in pursuit of Gen. Cornwallis all the way from Southwest Virginia to Yorktown, located in the southeast, where Washington and his forces, coming from the other direction, forced Cornwallis to surrender, which terminated the Revolution.

For those interested in the D.A.R. (or S.A.R.), William's name is listed in the D.A.R. Roster of Revolutionary soldiers and the names of those who have joined through him are available to me.

In 1784 William Neelly was a member of the Botetourt Co. Court. On February 2, Wm. Neelly, Wm. McClanahan and David May were appointed by the Court to let a contract for a storehouse for the reception and storage of hemp and deerskins taken as taxes. The specifications of this building were of interest to me and I should like to record them:

"House to be built in Thomas Mason's stonehouse tract of land; 18 x 24 feet, of round logs 16 feet high. The lower story to be ten feet high; plank floors above and below with a good door with sufficient lock and key. Covered with lapped shingles 18 inches to the weather, clear of sap. The whole to be finished by the first of March in workmanlike manner for the reception of deerskin and hemp, agreeable to the Act of the Assembly".

In 1783, a tax list showed William Neelly with 8 horses, 20 head of cattle, 12 slaves. His father. Capt. James Neelly who had apparent

divested himself of much of his property by gifts to his children, after the death of his wife, had 6 horses, 20 head of cattle, 9 slaves.

William continued to purchase land in Botetourt County. In addition to the 49 a. recently given him by his father, and 570 a on the Roanok R. at Mason's Creek and Brown Roan Oak, he and wife Mary had bought 179 a from William Carlton, another plot of 90 a from Carlton, and he already had on Mason's Creek 125 a bought from Patrick and Isabella Mahon.

The Neelly family had become such large landowners that, in 1782, the four brothers, with nine of their neighbors, petitioned the Legislature to "be considered as the 12th District".

I might record here that the duplication of names of the sons of first-settlers James and John has posed no problem, since the information we have is taken from written records, and the two families were far enough apart that they came within the jurisdiction of different Militia Captains.

Another comment could be made on the "double L". Most historians ignore it. And Court Clerks never used it. Only on original deeds and other legal documents, then only the signatures of the Neellys themselves. They never signed any other way. This is an admonition to future family genealogists: Don't pass up a lead on a Virginia Neely because he has only one 'l'. You may find tucked away in a deed or marriage license a double 'l', the person's original signature.

Another hint to contemporary Neelys: A road established by the Augusta County Court in 1742, later known as "Neelly's Road", more or less paralleled the present Route 460, largely serving Roanoke, Montgomery, Bedford and other Counties, crossing the old "Carolina Trail" near the Big Lick, etc. Any of you Neelys who are meandering travelers might enjoy driving along 460 and using a great deal of imagination, picture it as it was in 1780.

Then the Exodus began. In 1780 William began to accumulate land in Washington and Wythe Counties as they were established. Voting in a 1792 election in Botetourt County were only four Neellys- a James, Robert, Andrew and John from three generations of voting age. Where were the sons and grandsons of immigrants James and John?

We have already mentioned the flight of the four sons of James (1); that in 1790 James and John were in Burke County North Carolina;

Robert had paid taxes in Halifax County, Virginia in 1785 and William Ker must have been in Wythe or Washington County where he had large land holdings by this time. However, his son, James was given a commission in the Militia of Botetourt County at this time and must have remained in that County for several years, earning the rank of Major, which titled he carried to his grave. But that is another story.

I cannot imagine William as an adventurous man. I think he preferred to be in a "safe" position rather than take risks that carried with them only the possibility of large gains. Was the Friend family in Washington County? None of that family came to Middle Tennessee. But, in 1796 William sold all his land in the Virginia counties and must have proceeded to Tennessee during that year.

New Gaps and Passes in the mountains had been discovered as surveys of the land proceeded and the Indians were less hostile. Jane and Philip Love had moved to Box County, Virginia. They seem to have been given the large portion of her father's land. Sarah and William McClanahan remained in Botetourt County, rearing a large family and quite wealthy and influential when he died in 1824.

An unusual transaction in William Neelly's disposal of his land in Washington County is the record of the sale, by William Neelly and his wife, Mary, to Harold Smith, infant son of Alex Smith, 550 a, etc. In the spring of the same year, 1796, he sold 396 a on South Fork, Wythe County and another 500 a tract in Wythe County to Andrew Lewis as well as a plot of 83 a on Chestnut Neck.

Why did the Neellys leave the land they had cleared and the home they had established over a period of fifty years? Ernest Wilroy Renshaw, a geologist in the family who is familiar with the area in Southwest Virginia, points out that this was, after all, marginal land in the sense that only narrow strips of bottom land were suitable for farming, with only hunting and trapping (backwoods occupations) in the upland forests.

There were other reasons, too. New mountain passes had been discovered, making travel faster and safer. Many of the early travelers had lost their lives in conflict with vengeful Indians whose hunting grounds

they were despoiling. And many early settlers in Tennessee and Kentucky had plowed their fields with their guns hung across their shoulders. Now, in the last decade of the eventful eighteenth century, the fertile, rolling plateau beyond the mountains beckoned, offering opportunities for a better life. A new world lay ahead—just beyond the Cumberland Gap!

A great surge of movement followed the Revolution as new passes were opened. But as late as 1797 they were literally "trails", where only packhorses could get through. By 1800, wagons were bringing families with the necessities and even some of the amenities of life in their day.

We are told that the first wagon road across the mountains from North Carolina was a toll road completed in 1802. Wagons being used at that time resembled large boxes with the open end up so that ladders were needed to enter them. Looting was almost impossible. True to the tradition of American enterprise, inns and taverns sprang up along the way, adding to the comfort of those who could afford this luxury.

In long lines they came. In groups of twenty to forty families. Families whose children would intermarry to become the "Old Families"; their names familiar to us today, honored in Tennessee and Kentucky and to the south and west of us.

Many stories have been told of the adventures and difficulties of travel in that day; families taking with them all their possessions, including livestock, farming implements, and additional supplies to suffice until a new crop is made. Wherever possible, water transportation was used.

In fifty years, the Neellys had acquired many of the niceties that add to the quality of life, we may be sure. Many perishable treasures would be left behind and others damaged or lost along the way. Family ties were severed and friendships terminated. There must have been other motivations for migration than we have perceived. Their Scotch-Irish neighbors were a bold and hardy race, with great loyalties and deep prejudices. They were Protestants who detested Catholics, from whom they had fled their homes in Ireland, and who they felt to be the enemies of their forefathers; they despised the Episcopalists, their present oppressors. They were the first to push past the settled regions and plunge into the wilderness as leaders in the white advance into Indian lands. Others merely followed in their wake.

In this case, it was the Germans who followed them. In large numbers. And they hated Germans! Hardworking, plodding, the Germans were also intelligent, ambitious, frugal, with values not held by their daring but lighthearted neighbors. The acquisition of the comforts of life and willingness to make protracted sacrifices to obtain them were in contrast to the general characteristics of the Irish, who fought Indians, blazed trails, speculated in land, became civic and political leaders, often failing to obtain the more desirable goals, which they had not really sought, and becoming more and more resentful of their German neighbors. This is a commonly given reason for the mass removal of the Scotch-Irish settlers into the uncleared lands to the south.

I saw this antipathy for Germans carried through many generations of Neelys. I was aware of its presence in the first of the family I was to know and admire, as a young girl just before the first World War, some years before I knew there was such an eligible young man as my future husband in the family. An unreasonable hatred for Germans and Catholics which seemed strange to me, brought up by kindly, mild-mannered parents in the unchallenged Anglo-Saxon atmosphere of the South. My dear husband had no such prejudices, nor did most of his generation of Neelys.

Whatever the reason or combination of reasons, settlers were now moving en masse to rich, clearable, tillable lands beyond the mountains. East to Carolina, south to Tennessee and west to Kentucky. But Mecca for most of the Neelys was Davidson County, Tennessee, parent County for Williamson, Rutherford, Maury and several others, all to be established later.

The 1798 Tax List of Davidson Co Tn shows William Neelly on a farm on the Cumberland R., 618 a with dwelling and nine slaves; six taxable. James has m and is living with his fa. He has 3 slaves; two taxable.

There were other William and James Neellys coming into the area but I believe these two can be identified further by their slaves. William has nine; three probably too old to be taxed (past age 50). In 1815 he gave Sarah and Samuel eight and he had none when he d; only a free black to whom he left a horse.

Philip Phillips had given his dau Eleanor "one negro woman named Lucy and her ch named Lydia." James would have had a personal slave; a "body servant". (He did when he went to the War in 1814). Lydia's dau would be -12 and not taxable. James had three; two taxable; Eleanor's Lucy and his own.

no other William Neelys lived on the Cumberland R. in 1798. One had 40 a and one slave; the other had no land, no slaves.

might mention here that the descendents of the family of Thomas Neely who went to N. C. ca 1750, were now coming into the new State of Tennessee adding complications to the duplications in Neely names.

tax Lists of Williamson Co for 1801 show us that William has moved into his newly established County. He bought 619 a on Murphrees Fork of Harpeth R., land originally owned by Hugh Leiper. He had deeded 239 of the tract to James. In 1806 James sold 114 a of his land to his uncle Robert Neelly who had made several moves since leaving Botetourt Co; in 1785 Halifax Co Va Tax List, he is listed with "5 white souls", and but no buildings. Later he was in Burke Co N. C. with brothers James and John Neelly. It seems that they all came to Tn together soon after 1800, Robert finally settling in Maury Co where he d after 1830, I believe. Mary Friend Neelly is hardly so much as a shadow in his story, yet The L.D.S. Society's genealogist has accepted Grandpa (T. J.) Neely's statement regarding her identity since he was b in her home and he knew her well.

children of William and Mary Friend Neelly were:

1. James Neelly b Botetourt Co Va. 24 Dec 1773, d 17 Apr 1842, Hardeman Co Tn. bur T. J. Neely Cem.
2. Ann Neelly b ca 1775, Botetourt Co Va. m Nicholas Perkins Hardeman b Va. 1772, 5th son of Thomas Hardeman (Rev. sol listed in Ark D.A.R. Roster) and Mary Hardin Perkins Hardeman. Younger half-bro of N. P. Hardeman was Thomas Jones Hardeman who settled in W. Tn., then in Texas. Counties in Tn. and Tex. named for him.) N. P. Hardeman was Sheriff of Davidson Co 1794-1798. He was a wealthy and an honored citizen but I believe he lacked the warmth of personality that his brother may have had. This lack seemed evident in the wording of his WILL. He made no mention of his wf and made no provisions except that of an intestate. He d in 1818 and his estate was finally settled several years later after pleas from the family, which, to my pleasure, provided me with the names of their ch. Issue:
 - a. Thos. J. Hardeman b ca 1796. Goodspeed says he was among the prominent men of Franklin in 1831.

- b. Mary N. Hardeman b ca 1798 m before 1818, Thos. Hardin Perkins, obviously a cousin. As son-in-law, he was co-exec of N. P. Hardeman's estate.
- c. Nancy Lewis Hardeman, b ca 1800. Her brother-in-law, T. H. Perkins was her guardian.
- d. William Hardeman b ca 1802. His fa made provision for his education. "Not to exceed one thousand dollars and to be deducted from his share of the estate." M. B. Murphree, guardian.
- e. Lavinia C. Hardeman b ca 1804. J. S. Hardeman, Guardian.
- f. Sarah Jane E. Hardeman b ca 1806. Thos. L. Hardeman, Guardian.

There are no authentic dates for this family; all are predicated on the date of Nicholas' WILL and the fact that the ch required Guardians. I do not think his b date, 1772, is documented. He may have been older. I regret that I have no further record.

In the 1830 cen, Williamson Co we find Ann Hardeman, a widow, Head-of-Household, age 50-60 yrs; a very old Female 70-80 yrs, Ann's step-mother Mary Nash Neelly (?), and two Females 20-30 yrs. Lavinia C. and Sarah Jane E. ca 24 and 26 yrs. unm. I feel that Ann's life may not have been as happy as circumstances might indicate it should have been.

3. Sarah Neelly b 10 Feb 1784, Botetourt Co Va. m 12 Feb 1806 in Williamson Co Tn. to her cousin Samuel Neelly b 17 Jan 1778, son of James (2) Neelly and Catherine Evans Neelly. Sarah d 1819, Franklin Co Ala., near Tuscumbia (now in Colbert Co.) where they had established their home in 1817. Samuel d there 5 May 1875. In what is now Spring Valley, the first Circuit Court was held at the home of Samuel Neely, grandfa of the Rick's at "Big Spring", which community had its name changed to Tuscumbia by an act of the Legislature in 1823. Ch of Sarah and Samuel:

- a. Elvira H. Neely b 2 Jan 1807, d 27 May 1852 m James Long. Descendents live in No. Ala.;
- b. Cicero Metalbert Neely, b 20 Aug 1808; d 7 Nov 1851, m Nancy Gattis, dau of Samuel and Margaret Allen Gattis and gr-dau of John Gattis;

- c. Darthula Lennard Neely (called 'Dolly') b 8 Mar 1810 d 18 Apr 1879 m Thomas Pope. Their dau Sally Pope m Abram Ricks and their ch live in the old Ricks home six miles from Tusculumbia. The house is over 125 yrs old (1949) and has much antique furniture. Boxwood in yard over 125 yrs old;
- d. Thomas Hart Benton Neely b 22 Jul 1811, d 5 Sept 1830;
- e. William James Harvey Neely (Uncle Harvey) b 5 Jun 1818 d 22 Jun 1850. m Candace Moore of LaGrange, Tn. bur in Spring Valley near the old Samuel Neely homestead.

Many of the descendents of this family live in Northwest Alabama and in Mississippi. Lilly Neely (Mrs. G. A. Henry), daughter of John Thomas Neely and granddaughter of Cicero Metalbert and Nancy Gattis Neely, lives (1974) in Charleston, Mississippi and is well versed in the history of this branch of the family. Her son is Dr. Henry, a urologist, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Another grson of Cicero Metalbert and Nancy Gattis Neely; John Sidney Neely b 22 Aug 1871 m 23 Jun 1897 Mary Alice Houlhouser (b 10 Feb 1872, d 25 Jan 1934). Their son, Sidney Vernon Neely, of San Benito Tex. has been of great assistance to me in sorting out the many Neellys that came before us. S. V. Neely, b 17 Nov 1900, m Ernestine Ramsey 1 Aug 1937. Ernestine is dau of Ernest L. and Mississippi Purcell Ramsey. Sidney Vernon Neely is an Educator - Teacher, recently retired from Southmost College, Brownsville, Tx. I believe he will make available much more detail about this branch of the family of both William and James (2) Neelly. Ch are: (1) Mary Alice Neely b 23 Aug 1934, San Benito, Tx. m Robert Reid Allgood 26 Aug 1960. (2) Martha Lynn Neely b 3 Apr 1943 m Howard G. Cloys, Jr.

There are many unanswered questions in my mind concerning William Neely, some of which might be answered by a more intensive search into both Davidson and Williamson County Records. The City Cemetery in Franklin where T. J. N. said "William and his consorts" were buried was damaged irreparably by destruction during the Battle of Franklin of the Civil War. A stone reading, "Mary E. Neely", with dates unreadable is all I can find.

William's gift to daughter, Sarah, is unusual. In 1815 He deeded practically all his movable goods, including nine slaves, to Sarah and Samuel. I can only rationalize: Did Mary Friend, his first

wife, die in 1814 and did William react to his loss by divesting himself of all his goods? I believe he gave his land to the other two children, but have no proof. This seems to be the same thing his father did when his mother died. His son, James, was never a provident man. He lived always on land belonging to William or to the Phillips. A gift to him would soon be dissipated. Ann's husband was a very wealthy man already, but William may have given them the land on Murphree's Fork.

When James sold his land to Robert, the deed, recorded 4 July 1806, referred to James Neelly "of Davidson Co.". He and Eleanor had gone back to her mor's home, it appears, which causes me to believe Susanna was ill and perhaps died. You will see, when we discuss the Phillips family, that Susanna is also unknown to us. I have no record to show when James and Eleanor went to Rutherford Co. where they lived until 1825. James was taxed for his remaining land and the three slaves in Williamson Co in 1807, which indicated the slaves were not needed in Davidson Co.

It is interesting to note that all four of the Neelly brothers lived in Williamson Co after 1800.

John bought a lot in Franklin and lived there until he d in 1818;

Robert went to Maury Co, as we have said. Was his son Robert, b 26 Aug 1768 d 8 May 1811 m Margaret b 24 Nov 1765? (Recorded in Whiteside Family Bible).

James (2) seems to have acted for a yr or two as agent for negotiating land purchases by non-settlers. He settled in Franklin Co Ala, was agent to the Indians for many yrs and d in Spring Hill, leaving the large family already recorded.

I believe that William went to Maury Co soon after, if not before he gave his property away. He was on the 1818 Maury Co Tax List. (1 poll, no land). The Nash family was numerous there. Did he m Mary Nash and take her back to Franklin and live there the rest of his days? He d there 2 Feb 1827, leaving little property as his WILL and inventory indicate.

PHILIP AND SUSANNAH PHILLIPS

mes (3) Neelly, born 24 Dec 1773, married Eleanor Phillips (born Kentucky 10 Feb 1782) on 27 Apr 1797.

Eleanor was the daughter of Philip and Susannah Phillips. Philip is of Welsh descent and from Pennsylvania, probably the son of John Phillips. He came to the Southwest as a surveyor, first in Virginia then in North Carolina and Kentucky, which became his home. He settled in the part of Hardin County which later became Boone County, Kentucky. They were Presbyterians. William and David Phillips, who settled in Davidson County, Tennessee, must have been his kin. They were in business deals together and witnessed legal papers for each other.

There were many Phillips in Davidson County who came from North Carolina and were not of the same family. Most of these were Baptists.

Philip's business partner thru the years was Michael Campbell, born 1757 in Franklin County, Penna., the youngest of five brothers. His grandfather was Scotch-Presbyterian, coming to this country from Ireland. After the Revolution Michael settled in Bardstown, Nelson Co., Ky. and served in the Kentucky legislature. He moved to Nashville in 1808, where he continued to manage their large land holdings until his death in 1830. He was a Trustee of Montgomery Bell Academy and active in business and philanthropy in Tennessee and Kentucky.

Michael Campbell was Executor of Philip's estate, which was extensive, with large holdings of land, much of which remained in litigation long after Michael himself had died in 1830.

Philip and Susannah Phillips probably married in 1777 in Hardin Co., Ky. Issue:

1. John Phillips, born in Ky. ca 1778. A minor when Philip's WILL was made in 1797. He settled on family-owned

land in Henderson Co. Tn., d there in 1839. His name, "John" would indicate that his grfa was John Phillips, probably the one who signed the "Articles of Agreement" of Tennessee County in 1772 when the territory west of N. C. was in a state of uncertainty politically.

2. James Phillips, b ca 1780. Also lived in Henderson Co., in 9th dist. quite near James Neely's home.
3. Eleanor Phillips, b Ky 10 Feb 1782. m James Neely 27 Apr. 1797 Davidson Co. Tn. (see T. J. Neely Family Bible).
4. Joseph Phillips, b ca 1784 Ky m Mary A. ?. Both signed a Deed in Butler Co. Ky 22 May 1819. DB "B" p 230. On 6 May 1818, he was listed as "co-signee for Philips & Campbell," 300 a of land of Hardin Co. Tn. adj Thos. Shannon and Thos. Shute. He, by this time, Judge Joseph Phillips, had settled in Rutherford Co. Tn. where his dau m Major John W. Childress of Murfreesboro, a bro of Mrs. President Polk.
5. Elizabeth Phillips b ca 1786 m General Robert Purdy. They, too, signed the above mentioned Butler Co. Ky Deed in 1819. A Robert Purdy was Marshall of Hardeman Co. in 1830. The Purdy family was a large and prominent one in Tn.
6. Mary Phillips b ca 1788, probably the last ch to be b in Kentucky-Larue County, I believe. This would be the Rev. T. J. Neely's "Aunt Polly", who was present in Rutherford Co. in 1820 when her nephew joined the Methodist Church, thereby causing consternation in this dignified, straight-laced Presbyterian family. More about that later. Mary's husband, Elisha Williams, signed with her the Butler Co. Deed, thus adding his name to our record. John Williams, an heir of Isaac Neely (of N. C. Neelys, I believe) was a neighbor of Philip and Susannah Phillips on the Cumberland R., near Neely's Bend. Perhaps I have said that "Neely's Bend" is certainly named for the No. C. Neelys who came with the very first settlers from Watauga - a historic and much publicized event. Our William Neely did settle there in 1796-7, James and Eleanor living with them, their first two sons, William and Benjamin Franklin being b there. This could cause some confusion, but the Virginia Neelys always had the two "l's", if correctly spelled, which it frequently was not in Court records. Elisha was quite likely son of Neighbor John Williams and related to Isaac Neely

7. Nancy Phillips b 21 Jan 1793 m 1819 Daniel Gilchrist, son of Malcolm (b Cantire, Scotland) and Mary Buie (or Bowie) Gilchrist, b 22 Dec 1788 in N. C., his parents coming to Maury Co. Tn in 1809. Daniel and his brother, Malcolm, Jr., moved to Alabama, settled near Melton's Bluff, where I presume Daniel and Nancy made their home.

8. William Phillips b ca 1794. He was the last ch named in his fa's WILL, so I feel sure he was the youngest. A very small boy when his fa d. In 1830 Cen Henderson Co., we find William Phillips on land near John Phillips. James Phillips also settled on Phillips land in Henderson Co. as did many others in the family.

In 1789, Philip Phillips recorded his first Land Grant in Tn. (#1077 of "N. C. land grants in Tn."), insofar as I have found. I believe this to be the 618 a for which Susannah (widow) was taxed in 1798; stone house, large barn, etc., since it appears that they moved from Ky soon after this purchase. Also, this is the only purchase I found deeded to Philip personally, all others being in the name of "Phillips and Campbell".

Among the many grants to the firm of Phillips and Campbell in Tennessee were: Davidson County Nos. 1261, 1330, 1350. In Sumner County seven grants. Recording dates on these do not reflect the dates of purchase, many being recorded years after the death of Philip in 1797.

Other holdings were: Two tracts of 640 a each involved in a boundary dispute between Virginia and Tennessee, each claiming the right to taxes:

Montgomery County, Tennessee, three tracts of 1,000, 1,200 and 3,840 a, 1798;

Hardin County, 300a 1818; Henderson County, 100 a, 1822; others in Wilson and Smith Counties and elsewhere; 137 a recorded as late as 4 Jan 1843.

Although Susannah Phillips had 618 a and the only barn in the area large enough to be taxed, she had only six slaves. In his WILL Philip describes the home place as "two farms and the adjoining land which I purchased from Ephriam McLean, Sr. and George McClean." He

also stated that he was negotiating to buy a negro named "Tom", husband of Phillis and father of her three children, Sisk, Sall and Tom. The slave named Luke was to be given to James Phillips when he became of age (they probably had grown up together) and Elizabeth the second daughter, was to have Betty. This would be six. Eleanor had m and claimed her two, Lucy and Lydia, who were included in James the tax in 1798. This was rolling land; a beautiful area, but much land the was not suitable for farming. No "plantations" developed here, so a qu large numbers of slaves were not required. However, six was a tabl rather small number and Philip allowed Susannah three hundred dollar W. 1 to purchase another man. In West Tennessee, where Grandpa Neely to M was to locate, the land was less fertile and many more acres were needed requiring many more workers. His Family Bible Record included the names and birth dates of about seventy that are legible and another page that is not readable.

Philip left each of his other children an extra three hundred dollars in lieu of a slave, to be claimed when they married or became of age.

Until the youngest child was of age, money from land sold must be invested in more lands; after that date money from each sale was to be divided equally among the heirs. Since women usually inherited "for life" only, this was not as simple as it might appear. Fifty two years after Philip's WILL was probated, we find Eleanor, a widow, in Hardeman County, "deeding" her life-interest in "land and slaves" to three of her youngest children, Philips gr-ch.

William Neelly was one of the appraisers of Philip's estate. Since both men had lands in the Western District, as the area was called, many of both families began to move westward in the migration following the historic removal of the Chickasaw and Cherokee Indians across the Mississippi River.

This tragic event, much regretted by those of us who are so far removed in time from the realities of the situation, was indeed a boon to those who had invested, sight unseen, in the very cheap land of what is now West Tennessee. It was the beginning of a new era in pioneering with its hardships and its opportunities. Many brought the accumulation of several generations of treasure and necessities, some using rafts, or flatboats that could actually be negotiated many miles up the small tributaries of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers as well as the Tennessee, to begin anew, usually in a log house at f

'Houseraisings' were not the gala affairs shown in the movies today. The slaves did most of the work. Timber must be felled, logs, shingles, flooring hewn out beforehand. After this time-consuming labor was finished the men in the neighborhood helped to "raise" the buildings. And it is safe to say that at the end of the day, the helpers had a firm and correct opinion of the newcomer. Usually the "sorry" ones moved on, though, looking for an easier life or a quicker way of making money, so that the communities became established with the most desirable of citizenry. People today from W. Tennessee to Texas, to California and on to Oregon proudly look to Middle Tennessee for their roots.

MAJOR JAMES AND ELEANOR PHILLIPS NEELY

James Neelly married Eleanor Phillips 27 Apr 1797, according to the T. J. Neely Family Bible. (extant). However, they applied for a license in 1796, which was granted, but which was never returned to the Court Clerk's office.

The William Neelly family must have come to Davidson County in the summer of 1796 since most of their Virginia land sales were recorded in May, 1796.

According to the 1798 tax records in Davidson County, William bought 618 a on the Cumberland River, just five farms away from that of the Phillips family. Both families were staunch Presbyterians and would have attended the same church. Eleanor was only fourteen years old in 1796 when the marriage license was obtained. James was twenty-three. They had known each other only a few months. Surely, her parents objected, perhaps agreeing to a wedding after her fifteenth birthday, 10 Feb 1797. Her father made a WILL just a week before it and must have died shortly thereafter. So the wedding actually took place 27 Apr 1797.

I conferred with the Shelby County Marriage Bureau and was told that there is no time limit placed upon the use of such a license and that it was fairly common 200 years ago for a minister to fail to return the license after he had performed the ceremony.

James Neelly is one of the most interesting people in this family, since his character and personality come through to a greater extent than that of anyone else, excepting Grandpa Neely, of course.

The Reverend Thomas Jefferson Neely (called 'Jefferson' by his father; 'Uncle Jeff' by admiring nephews and nieces and their descendents, to whom he was a legendary figure, and 'Tom' by his associates in the ministry) said, "I was born in Williamson County, Tennessee....I was the third son...My father moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee where I was principally raised." "My father was a fine fiddler", he continued, "and sent his children to dancing school to polish their manners. The neighborhood continued to be a frolicking community until the great revival of 1820".

We learn more of James' personality from a rambling story eulogizing the Rev. John B. McFerrin whose Biography had just been read by Tho

nathan Burford Neely, son of the Rev. T. J. Neely and, of course, grandson of Maj. James Neelly, the subject of this chapter.

Journalist, T. J. B. wrote a glowing account of the McFerrin book, mentioning the close ties between the McFerrin and the Neelly families. He thereby reveals, without malice or rancor, some of his grandfather's weaknesses, and of his spiritual awakening much later in life. He says, "Col. James McFerrin and Major James Neelly were under Gen. Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans, and, while there in camp, they drank, fiddled and danced." He continues that some years later James Neelly visited overnight in the home of James McFerrin (who was the son of the Rev. J. B. McFerrin). James soon realized that his host was a changed man, who had professed religion and had set up a family altar, in which service Major Neelly was invited to participate. "The arrows that pierced his heart that night were barbed", says his grandson. "He found himself in ruin and awoke to the grandeur of his being. He had the germs of nobility within him and the capacity for improvement. Once he was home, his Presbyterian wife was quick to notice a change in his general demeanor. His spirit was now somewhat subdued and his heart began to relent toward his son, Jefferson"...But that is another story.

James moved his family from Rutherford County to Henderson County in 1825, the date his father's land grants were certified.

The historian, Goodspeed, stated in his history of Henderson County, that Major James Neelly, a prominent citizen, came to Jack's Creek in 1825. The Jack's Creek Community was in Henderson County until 1875, when Chester County was created. James was living there when his father died in Williamson County 21 Feb 1827, leaving WILL naming James Neelly, son, of Henderson County; nephew, James Neelly and grandson, Thomas J. Hardeman, both of Williamson County, as Executors. The nephew, also names James Neelly, son of William's brother, James, was recorded by some of the Neelly family as having married Eleanor Phillips, although his birthdate was 1782, so that he was only fourteen years old in 1796, when he obtained a marriage license.) Hardly plausible and in error, of course.

James Neelly and his brother-in-law, James Phillips, had adjacent farms in the 9th district in Henderson County in 1827. The 1830 census showed John on land near them. The records of that County were destroyed by fire on two occasions and only a few saved. However,

when John Phillips died in Henderson County in 1839, Grandpa Neely, of Hardeman County, was Executor and made several land transactions in that capacity; one tract of 229 a in Henderson County, which seemed to be the farm on which John had lived, was sold. Another transaction conveyed 278 a in Hardeman County to Joseph Phillips, of Rutherford County, described as "the land on which (Major) James Neelly now lives." I think James and Eleanor lived the remaining three years of his life on son, Jefferson's plantation where James was buried in 1842.

James must have been a Major in the Botetourt County militia, as I have said. The record shows that he was recommended as Captain in 1791, when he was 18 years of age. He may have served until 1796, when William came to Tennessee, and could have earned the rank of Major. James entered the War of 1812 in September, 1814; was made Captain in December. He served the remaining months until the war ended in April, 1815. He took his body-servant (slave) and three horses into service and applied later for expenses of the slave and the horses. After months of correspondence and Red Tape, he was allowed \$664.59-"Pay, Forage, Sustenance, Clothing". A tidy sum in that day. He had left Eleanor with five small children, and had gone to the war for a lark, it seems, with his friend, James McFerrin.

James and Eleanor must have moved to Hardeman County in 1836. Their daughter, Elizabeth, married Madison Phillips that year. Grandpa Neely, remnescent in his old age, said of his father, "In his later years I had the pleasure of helping him educate his children and of aiding in his support. He died in the triumph of the Faith, ascribing to me a part of the credit for bringing him to the Cross."

James' tombstone, in the Family Graveyard of the T. J. Neely plantation site is the most beautiful of all. In fine condition after 132 years.

"MAJOR JAMES NEELLY

Born Dec 24 1773

died Apr 17 1842"

James' name is spelled "Neilly" in some copies of the Census Records of Rutherford and Henderson Counties. He himself had been census-taker in both counties!

Eleanor applied for 1812 Bounty land in Dallas County, Arkansas in 1854, but the deadline for application had elapsed and she was refused.

his application was one of several documentary proofs of their marriage. Copies of James' war record, with name correctly spelled (County Clerks spelled phonetically without regard for correctness), and a copy of her original request for land, containing their names correctly spelled with a true copy of her own signature are in my possession.

Eleanor had gone to Dallas County, Arkansas, after James died, to live with her daughters who had moved to that State, with their husbands. I am sure she is buried there-in Hunter's Chapel Cemetery, about four miles from Tulip, where many of her daughters' families are buried. I do not believe her grave is marked.

Eleanor was a member of the Household of son-in-law John B. Phillips in the 1850 Census: "Ellen Neely, age 70 born Kentucky" (The age is in error. She was 68 years old). Her youngest daughter, Nancy, then unmarried, was also in the John B. Phillips Household at that time.

In the same Household ten years later, (in the 1860 Census), we find Ellen Neely, age 78. Also William Phillips, age 86, father of John B. Phillips, and Ellen's relative. He died that year. We shall mention him again.

I have mentioned Eleanor's return to Hardeman County in 1850 to sign over Phillips land and slaves, in which she had a life interest, to three of her children; John J. Neely, who lived in Hardeman County, Nancy Neelly, and Sarah Ann J. Neelly Ballew (wife of William C. Ballew). Son-in-law John B. Phillips, of Dallas County, came along to witness the legal papers. Eleanor died before the 1870 Census. I do not know the date.

Children of Major James and Eleanor Phillips Neelly are:

1. William Neely. I have no proof of his given name but I do have proof that he existed, since the Rev. T. J. Neely said, "I was the third son...". Benjamin Franklin Neely was the second son, as we shall see.

The Rutherford Co m records show that on 13 Jan 1818, William Neely and Elizabeth ? . James' eldest son is 19 or 20 yrs old, a marriageable age at that time. It is indeed regrettable that Elizabeth's surname is illegible. No other Neelly's in County with sons over ten years old.

My next clue is a strong one, but certainly inconclusive. That is the name "William" in the m record. The Neellys had resisted the "fad", of the Middle 1700s, of using Biblical names for their sons, these names becoming a part of the naming pattern, since a son of Abraham _____, or Elijah, Isaiah, or whatever, must name his first born son for the father. But the naming of sons for Patriots after the Revolution was practiced. James, for instance, named his second and third sons Franklin and Jefferson, but the first son would certainly have been named William for his father's father.

Strengthening the hypothesis in my mind is the census record of a William Neely in Henderson Co in 1830, with young wf and two small sons, then finding him in a Haywood Co court record.

This William Neelly had borrowed \$500.00, it seemed, from one Henry Sheppard, of Haywood Co. An oral WILL, made by Henry Sheppard and witnessed by Richard Whitehead, Lucille Whitehead, and E. Haywood, was placed in the Court Record of the Oct term, 1839 containing these words, "which Bond I wish him indulged to the greatest extent. Now, Henry Sheppard was a partner in land deals in Giles Co specifically, perhaps other Counties, with Joseph Phillips, lawyer, and was well known to the Phillips and Neelly families. This appears to be James' son.

Since this William Neely had two small sons in 1830, I am quite interested in learning whether he has living descendents today, although I cannot as yet prove that he is the son of Major James and Eleanor Neely.

2. Benjamin Franklin Neelly (called Franklin) b ca 1800 in Davidson Co. m in Rutherford Co. 16 Dec 1822, Elizabeth H. McCoy. The McCoy family came from Mecklinberg Co. N.C. They were involved as late as 1809 in transferring land in N. C. James McCoy (d before 1806) may have been the original grantee, with sons Henry, John, Ezekiel and Beaty McCoy his heirs. It appears that John may have lived in Tn at the time of the m and was the father of Elizabeth. Since Franklin's name follows the fashion of the moment, of giving names of American Patriots, he is not difficult to identify, but I have not been able to find the names of his two sons or their descendents. Franklin was in Haywood Co Census 1830, with one son -5 yrs and one son 5-10 yrs. (Franklin was Census-taker). In 1842, he was in Henderson Co, according to a land Deed describing land as "adjacent to B. F. Neely and James Phillips, on the Forked Deer River. 29 July 1842."

other Deed, to Steven Hamlett, reads, "R 3, sec 7 on Forked Deer joining B. F. Neely and Joseph Phillips," (his uncle who lived Rutherford Co.) dated 31 Oct 1842. The paucity of records of Anderson probably account for my inability to learn more about these two eldest brothers of Grandpa Neely.

3. Thomas Jefferson Neelly b 23 Dec 1803 in Williamson Co Tn. Since this is "Grandpa Neely", I wish to reserve the story of his life and his family until I have completed that of his brothers and sisters, so we shall continue with Susan, the fourth child and first daughter of James and Eleanor Neelly.

4. Susan Neelly b ca 1805 in Williamson or possibly Davidson Co. (Deed conveying from James Neelly to His uncle, Robert Neelly, 114 a part of 640 a tract originally granted to Hugh Leiper and lying in Williamson Co., Tn. on Murfrees Fork & West Harpeth R. dated 1806, being signed by James Neelly of Davidson Co. Tn, his signature proved by William Neelly and Nicholas P. Hardeman). This Deed shows James Neelly living in Davidson Co. in 1806, and I believe James and Eleanor remained in Davidson Co. for several years, possibly because of illness and/or death of Susannah Phillips.

In the summer of 1820, Susan went with her brothers, Franklin and Jefferson and other young neighbors and cousins to a Methodist "Camp meeting" at Norvell's Campground in Bedford Co. Jefferson was converted and made his commitment to the "brawling, fanatical" Methodists, (These adjectives being used later by his Presbyterian father); Franklin and Susan making a commitment also, but choosing to join the traditional church of their family.

Susan was about 15. Did she have a date that night? With young Archibald Campbell whose family lived nearby? She married him the next year-21 Dec 1821. The Rutherford Co marriage record gives her name "Neilly" as the 1820 Census in that Co spelled her father's name. The Campbell family Bible also used an "i", but I think they copied it later from the Court record, as I did. (see "Ansearchin" News, vol 21, p 107). Her father's name was also spelled that way in Henderson Co., as I said.

Archibald and Susan were in the Henderson Co. 1830 Census, he (b 1798) 40-40 yrs; she 20-30. Two little boys -5 yrs. (It was not until the 1850 Census that Names other than the Head of Household were given). I do not find theirs in 1850.

Archibald Campbell, grfa of Susan's husband, came from Va. to Greene Co. Tn. in 1796, accompanied by his three eldest sons. His fourth son, Samuel, fa of young Archibald, came in 1802 and settled (in that part of Davidson Co which became Rutherford Co the next yr,) with his wf, Nancy Mann (Fleming), wid of Peter Fleming, whom Sam'l had m in Campbell Co. Va. 13 Nov. 1797. Perhaps, through some of the Campbell or Neelly records we may learn more about these two Campbell boys who are also of the Neelly family. I have no further records.

5. Robert P. Neelly, 5th ch of James and Eleanor Neelly, b 3 Feb 1808 in Davidson or Rutherford Co. Tn. d 15 Feb 1849. He was the eldest ch at home when his fam moved to Henderson Co. in 1825. He m late in 1830, after Census had been taken, Mary L. (Burton) b 1813 Ky. d 3 July 1891. Both are bur in T. J. Neely Cem as are several ch and gr-ch.

When I began to enumerate the descendents of this couple, I found 'Mary Burton Neely' and 'Lillie Burton Sammons'. The 1830 Census of Henderson Co. revealed that Charles Burton (from Ky, I learned from the 1850 Census) who owned the second farm away from the Neellys (as that Census recorded James' name) had two daughters in the 15-20 age category. One daughter would have satisfied me for I was looking for a wife for Robert, and I had learned that in those days of poor transportation, the place to look for romance-you guessed it! The girl next Door! I had no proof that Mary was the daughter of Charles except that Robert named his first son, James, for his father and, by a strange co-incidence, the second son was named Charles. The Burtons were numerous in southwest Kentucky and I think the many descendents of Robert and Mary may find ancestors in that area. Further research proved I was correct.

In the 1840 Census of Hardeman Co. we find Robert P. as Head of Household with wf and four ch; also another adult couple and two other boys. These last would be Rev. T. J. Neelly, his 3/wf and his two sons, Richard James Neely, (by his 1/wf), and Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely, by his 2/wf, who d in 1839. He had m his 3/wf 30 Jan 1840 and she is included in this Cen. T. J. Neelly was on the Trenton Circuit of the newly organized Memphis Conference of the Methodist Church and was probably gone most of the time. Robert and Mary must have been taking care of his sons in his absence and are now making a home for the new wf, also. This Cen also reported 28 slaves (15 males and 13 females) in the household. These were apparently a legacy to Grandpa Neelly's 1/wf, Sarah, from her fa.

Grandpa Neely had bought 50 a from James Murray in 1838 and soon thereafter he added larger amounts. All this time the two brothers were very closely associated, Robert looking after the farm while his brother was riding his Circuit.

Robert died in 1849. I do not know what caused his death, but he may have been ill for a long time. Charlie Mahoney told me the story of her grandfather's early death and the widow and eight children having a home near the great house on the plantation where "Uncle Jeff" could help in rearing the children.

Since this family was dear to the heart of "Uncle Jeff" (Whose name has become a legend to Robert's many descendents, coming down to the present generation, many of whom I have had the pleasure of knowing), I wish to portray them in as much detail as my research permits, looking to the present generation for assistance and correction in making this record,

Children of Robert P. and Mary L. (Burton) Neelly were:

a. Margaret Sarah Neely b 11 Aug 1830, Henderson Co. Tn. d 26 May 1860. Bur in T. J. N. Cem. m Nathan Johnson 30 Nov 1854 2/wf; (Nathan had m Nancy Lisa Goodrich 14 Sep 1847). Two ch d inf., bur near Margaret, the three graves being enclosed by a beautiful iron fence, untouched by time. Two surviving little daus were listed in the H. H. of their grmor, Mary L. Neely, in the 1860 cen, which was taken just a week after Margaret's death; "Elizabeth Johnson, 4, and Nancy Johnson, 1 yr." A yr later Nathan Johnson m Margaret's younger sis so there is every reason to believe the little girls had a mor's love and care.

b. James Calvin Neely b 27 June 1833, Henderson Co. d 17 May 1917, Hardeman Co. He was a Conf. sol under Gen Forrest, 1862. James applied for a pension later. A former slave, Gambo Neely, made a deposition in which he recalled that as a boy he had been present when James C. Neelly enlisted; that James C. Neely was then residing on the plantation of his uncle, Thomas Jefferson Neely. According to the birthdates of slaves in Grandpa Neely's Family Bible, Gambo was b in 1846. James did not get his pension since early Conf. records were so inadequate and his name could not be found on the rolls. I found that James had been m four times, but I have a record of only three, and ch by only the fourth wf. Hardeman Co. m Records show:

James C. Neely m M. M. Scott 16 Sep 1863, Thos. Taylor, M. G.;
 James C. Neely m R. E. Hull 7 Feb 1873, W. M. Norment, M. G.; James
 C. Neely m Susan Addie Walton (1862-1946) in Haywood Co. in 1887.
 Susan received a widow's pension.

Children of James C. and Susan Addie Walton Neely:

1. Eva B. Neely 1887-1926 bur Melrose cem Whiteville
as were her parents;
2. Jefferson (Jeff) Neely 1890-1946
3. Bettie Neely b 1893 m _____ McKinnie, 4 daus.
4. Kattie Neely b 1904.

c. Charles Franklin Neely. The name, Charles had not been
 used by the James Neely family, which added to my belief
 that Charles Burton, Henderson Co., was the fa of Mary L.
 Neely, since the second son was often given the name of the mo's
 fa. Charles was b 9 Dec 1835, d 10 Feb 1910 (accidentally fell from
 a moving train, I am told.) He also fought in the Civil War and
 received a medal, says Mrs. Dora Bessie Worthy, Brownsville, possessor
 of the medal at present and a gr-grdau of Charles F. Neely.

Charles m Martha Elizabeth (Betty) Doyle in 1859. She was b 18 Apr
 1840, d 1918. They lived in the Wellwood Community, in Fayette Co. Tn.

Ch of Charles and Betty Neely were:

1. Molly E. b 1861, afflicted unnm d 1932;
2. Charlie Alice b 1863 d 1957 m William Patrick O'Mahoney,
 1855-1922. Went to Bonham, Tx after m but returned and
 lived in Memphis, Tn. for many yrs. Issue:
 - a. Elizabeth Mahoney 1884-1961 m Roland Kendrick,
 1880-1951, Mphs, Tn. Issue:
 1. Roalise Kendrick, 1909-1966 m Clyde C. Chambers
 D. D. S. div.
 - a. Betty Chambers b 28 Dec 1928 m (1) John
 J. Patterson b 17 July 1948 d 3 Dec 1955.
 Four sons: John, James, William (m Linda
 Garrity), Tim (m Barbara Cummings) (2) Frank
 Sprott, Jr., b 4 Apr 1931; their ch Frank
 Sprott III and Sherri Sprott;

b. Joy Chambers b 1 Feb 1935 m Joe R. Cummings.
Their ch, Joe, Jr., and June Cummings.

b. Willie F. Mahoney, d inf. Fayette Co. Tn. I have an interesting obit of this baby girl, whose fa was perhaps the first and only Roman Catholic to m into that generation of this Scotch-Irish family. It follows in part:

Although her life was short, it was not without fruits. She was so bright, so prepossessing, that she became the center of attraction both at her home and at the home of her grpa, so that their grief was very sore...the mor became so resigned that she could say, with ob, "The Lord giveth..." The fa was so impressed with his wf's spirit that...after the funeral...they, for the first time observed together the commemoration of the death and resurrection of their Savior." (by the Rev. G. T. Peeples).

However, Will Mahoney remained true to the faith of his Irish family, although surely ex-communicated because of his Protestant m. He was buried in the family lot in Elmwood cem Memphis, by a Methodist minister. He was a good, gracious and honorable gentleman, known and beloved by this writer.

3. Florence L. Neely 1865-1937 m Zachariah V. Anderson of Tipton Co Tn lived in Memphis. Issue:

a. Robt. Anderson 1896-1971 m 2 Feb 1922 Irene Rich, Memphis. Ch: Dorothy Anderson b 1925, unm; Robert L. Anderson, Jr. dec.

b. Mary Anderson b 12 May 1900 m Willard Curtis Moody b N. Hampshire 1914 d Calif. 1974. Adopted dau Marie Cassandra Moody, b 1945 m Leo Stephens, b Ark.

knew Mary quite well when she was a young girl in Memphis. She was beautiful, slender brunette. A relative told me that she is still beautiful, but no longer slim! That happens to most of us if we are given time. Mary lived in California for many years, but has come back to Tn. since her husband passed away.

4. Robert E. (Bobby) Neely 1869-1888 unm.

5. Ella R. Neely b 26 Aug 1870 d 16 Aug 1942 2/wf Sam Smith, Jr. Brownsville Tn business man, prominent early in this century. Issue.

a. Dora Bessie Smith b 1901 m Waymon A. Worthy, nc. Makes her home in Brownsville. Dora Bessie gave me much-needed help on this branch of the Robert Neely family. She is in proud possession of the Civil War Medal presented to her grfa, Charles Franklin Neely.

6. Dora Neely b 1882 m William A. Bates, b Trenton, Ga. nc. Dora was Postmistress in Brownsville for many years before her d in 1973.

I have been late in getting in contact with the "Texas Neelys", but it has been a delightful experience. First, I was able to reach Irby Neely Grant in Denton, Texas, through the address of his mother, Allie Rhea Neely Grant, deceased for several years.

Irby put me in touch with Helen Wright Hardin, also in Denton. I have a wealth of aid from her, the last being her successful effort to give me a direct contact with the Nathan Johnson branch of Robert P. Neely's children, in the person of Minnie Laney Precise, 205 W. Nelson, Bowie, Texas. Since Eleanor Elizabeth Neely was his 3/wf (for more than forty years,) I shall give the history of this family in Ellen's place as fourth ch of Robert and Mary L. Neely:

d. Ellen (Eleanor Elizabeth) Neely, dau of Robert P. and Mary L. Neely b 14 Jan 1837, Hardeman Co. Tn d 9 Nov 1912, Denton, Tx. m 2 Jun 1861, Hardeman Co. Tn Nathan Johnson, widower of her sister, Margaret Sarah Neely d 1860, leaving two little daus, Elizabeth and Nancy (see 1860 Hardeman Co Cen). In the Denton Co. Tex Cen 1880 Elizabeth, then 24 is probably m, not listed, and Nancy, now 20, is listed as Margaret. A Family Bible provides the information that Nathan Johnson was b 1825, d 2 June 1903; that he m, first Nancy Lisa Goodrich on 14 Sep 1847. Nancy Lisa d on Christmas Day of the same yr.

Ch of Nathan Johnson and Eleanor Neely Johnson were:

1. Narcissa Johnson b 1862 d inf. bur. T. J. N. cem, Hardeman Co Tn no dates on her gravestone.
2. Thomas E. Johnson b ca 1864 Hardeman Co Tn., d 30 July 1950 wf. Minnie, d 19 Apr 1954 Denton Co Tx. We find the Nathan Johnsons were very close to the three ch of T. J. Neely who have settled in Denton and we shall

find evidence of this in the naming of ch in all the families. Ch of Thomas and Minnie Johnson were:

- a. Ellenor Belle Johnson, now Mrs. O. T. Adams, Minco, Okla b 24 Jan 1900, Denton, Tx.
- b. Mattie Sue Johnson b 5 Oct 1901 d 24 June 1905, Denton, Tx.
- c. Robert Nathan Johnson b 10 May 1903, Denton Co. Now living in Burleson, Tx.
- d. Samuel Johnson b 28 Nov 1905 Denton, Tx d 17 Oct 1939.
- e. Patrick Johnson 8 Apr 1908 Denton, Tx now living Ft. Wth.
- f. Joe Johnson b 10 Dec 1910. Liv Everman, Tx.
- g. Ida Irene Johnson (Mrs. Ida Hunt) b 15 Apr 1918 Liv Burleson, Tx.

- 3. Sarah Jane Johnson b 7 Feb 1867 Hardeman Co. Tn d 12 Jun 1934 m William Roland Laney b 12 Jul 1863 Clarks-ville Red River Co Tx. m 24 Dec 1884 Denton, Tx. Mem-bers of Methodist Church, bur Cooper Creek cem Denton. William Laney's fa was Noah Laney. He m Rebecca Jane Mathews in Clarks-ville Tx 31 July 1853. Ch of William Roland and Sarah Johnson Laney were;

- a. Virginia Ann Laney b 28 Oct 1886 d 31 July 1914 m Charles Fletcher in 1908. Their only ch, Nettie Fletcher, b 27 Jun 1911. m F. E. McCracken June

1939. Two ch Charles Michael and John Dave. Charles d Jan 1974 at their home in Seattle, Wa. John Dave lives in Seattle while C. Michael lives in Portland, Or. Nettie was a school teacher for many years until retirement and is a member of the Methodist Church.

- b. Edgar Noah Laney b 3 Aug 1888 d Sep 1971 m 6 Sep 1911 Ileene Clayton who d Aug 1971. Memb of Ch of Christ bur Rose Hill cem Ft. Worth. Ch:

Marguerite b 11 Nov 1912 m Earl Gramling 29 May 1944. Earl d 9 Oct 1959. Their son, William Edgar Gramling b 29 May 1945 m Judie McDaniel 16 Jun 1966; Edgar Clayton Laney b 20 Nov 1920.

c. Walter Purdy Laney b 7 Oct 1890 d 28 Mar 1893;

d. William Roland Laney, Jr. b 1 Oct 1893 d 24 Oct 1966. m Elizabeth Parker 25 Apr 1917. He bur in I.O.O.F. cem, Denton, Tx. Their ch were:

1. William Roland Laney, III b 27 May 1918, m Vera Davidson Oct 1941. Their ch were: Wm. R. Laney, IV, Thos Whitfield Laney b 4 May

1946 d ?, Robert Davidson Laney b 11 Nov 1947; Georgia Elizabeth Laney b 22 Jan 1958.

2. Sarah Elizabeth Laney b 9 Aug 1920 m James Sheffield 1 Apr 1946. Their ch: George Robert Sheffield b 25 Jan 1948; John Wm. Sheffield b 3 May 1950.

3. Thomas Wilson Laney b 28 Feb 1923 m Christine Dickey 13 Aug 1944 ch: Thos. Wilson Laney, Jr., Richard Alexander Laney, Harriet Christine Laney, Cindy Lou Laney.

e. Robert Elmer Thomas Laney b 23 Feb 1896 m Hattie House 27 Apr 1917. Their son Walter Frederick Laney m Faye Meeker 11 May 1949.

f. Bonnie Ruth Laney b 23 Sep 1898 unm.

g. Julian Frederick Laney b 1 Jan 1901. The first ch b in Denton Co in 1901. Much ado, with gifts from merchants, etc. He d 2 Aug 1971, bur in

Hillcrest Mem Park, Dallas H m Willie Holloway 15 Jul 1924. Their only ch, Sarah Frances Laney, b 24 Apr 1925 d at age 20 and rests beside her fa in Hillcrest cem. A beautiful and talented young lady, she was a senior at Baylor, in Waco when she developed pneumonia and did not recover. We grieve again for a life so shortened.

h. Samuel Milton Laney b 11 Feb 1903 m Jewell Hart
12 Dec 1924. She d 24 May 1962. Three sons:

Samuel Duke Laney b 10 Apr 1928 m Mydell Matthews
(who are the parents of twin boys); Sam'l Mark and James Duke Laney
b 23 Feb 1957, Guy Hart Laney b 2 June 1930 m Betty Jeanette Curry
and they have three ch; Daniel Milton Laney b 9 Apr 1949 m Marilyn
Wyas. They have on ch, Jewell Neely, and she is called Neely! How
nice! The little lady is just past her first birthday-b 23 Jan 1975
and she probably doesn't know that her fa has a Doctorate in Law from
U of Tx and is also a C.P.A. They are living in Austin. (I believe
most of this family is from Denton except where stated.)

i. Minnie Laney b 25 Dec 1909 m James Marvin Precise
on 4 May 1949. He passed away on 27 Feb 1970. Minnie
was a school teacher for 37 yrs; retired early, at

the end of the school yr, 1969, due to the illness of her husband.
Her experience as a teacher included teaching Social Studies in both
Junior and Senior High School. Twenty-seven years of teaching was spent
in Bowie, Tx, where she now resides. She is an active member of the
Church of Christ in Bowie. Perhaps those of you who know her will not
be surprised to know that she supplied all this information for me.
Thanks again, Minnie.

Minnie Laney Precise and Helen Wright Hardin have been able to provide
me with a wealth of information that I had no other way of accumulating,
and I am deeply grateful.

4. Anna (Ann A. in 1880 cen Denton Co), fourth ch of Nathan
and Eleanor Neely Johnson, and last to be b in Hardeman
Co. Tn b 1871 m Andrew Clobes, Denton Co Tx. nc.
5. Nathan F. Johnson b 13 July 1874 Denton Co Tx, d ca 1945.
m Alice Brown, Denton Co, Tx. They had one son, Julian
N. Johnson who d at age 6.
6. Dora Belle Johnson (Dora B. in 1880 cen) b Denton Co. Tx.
18 Jun 1877 d 18 Dec 1907. m Charles Price 17 May 1896.
ch:
 - a. Scott McCallum Price, 9 Mar 1897-6 Sep 1912;
 - b. Mary Ellen Price, 31 Mar 1899-June 1934.

Neighbors of the Johnsons in that Promised Land were the Bishop Neelys,

John K. and Sue Neely Holland and family of the Rev. William A. Boone, all of T. J. Neely's family.

e. Mary Letitia Neely, fifth ch of Robert P. and Mary L. Neely b 6 Sep 1839, d 28 Feb 1841. Just two and one-half yrs. old. What an adorable age! The sorrows, and some of the joys, of course, come to us across the years. Bless her, she 'made' the 1840 cen, but this is important only to the genealogist, who sheds a tear for those beyond our memory. She is bur in T. J. N. cem. Hardeman Co Tn.

f. Mariah Jane Neely, 6th ch of Robert P. and Mary L. Neely, b 5 Jun 1841 m Robert Henry Kirkland, 2 Jun 1867 Hardeman Co. Tn. Two inf sons bur in T. J. N. cem, b 1868 and 1870. Mariah's husband was called "Uncle Pony" by the ch in the family, I am told, but I have no further record.

I have an interesting conflict, which, if resolved, would probably throw some light on information we do not have. A Family Bible now owned by the Tx branch of the family, has the next ch listed as "William Chapman White Neely." Dates of b and d are identical with our William Thomas Neely but no other information. How such a mix-up could have happened is interesting. Who was William Chapman White and how did he get into a Neely family Bible as one for whom Robert Neely had named a son?

g. William Thomas Neely, seventh ch and third son of Robert P. and Mary L. Neely, b Hardeman Co 16 Jan 1844, d Fayette Co 15 Jan 1882. m Leonora Doyle 3 Jan 1867, Fayette Co. She was b 16 Apr 1844, d 10 Jun 1920, the last member of the family to be bur in the T. J. N. Cem.

The above dates show that William was only 38 yrs old when he d, leaving Leonora with five young children. How sad! A repetition of his parents' situation, his fa having d at age forty-one, leaving a large family.

A grave-size marble slab covers his grave in the T. J. N. cem, engraved with name and dates. Then follows this expression of a loving wife:

Amiable and beloved husband, farewell;
 thy years were few, thy virtues many.
 They are recorded in this perishable stone,
 and in The Book of Life, and also
 in the hearts of thy afflicted friends."

One mourns with the young widow, who lived to see their children's
 children a credit to their father's memory and to the promise of
 many worthy generations in the future.

As I have said, Leonora was the last to be bur in the historic cem.
 Her grave beside her husband's had no marker until recent yrs since
 the cem has become more accessible. Lehman Clark Sammons, of Memphis,
 has placed a handsome stone at the graves of his grandparents, carved
 with names and dates. A fine gesture by a fine gentleman.

Children of William T. and Leonora Doyle Neely were:

1. Minnie Neely 1868-1912 m Clark Sammons. Issue:
 (Many now living - 1976)

- a. Lehman Clark Sammons, b 1890, m Mamie Langley,
 Issue: all b Memphis, Tn.

1. George W. Sammons m Mary Sennett.
2. L. C. Sammons, Jr. M. D. m Virginia Ludlow
3. Margaret Sammons m William Huntzicker, Jr.

L.C. Sammons, Sr., "Pappy" to Memphis connoisseurs of good cuisine,
 is one of the most interesting Neelys of the present generation.
 Beginning, he claims, as a country boy washing dishes in a city
 restaurant early in this century (actually, he isn't quite as old
 as many people assume), he pyramided industry, personality, and
 great talent into delightful dining for several generations in this
 city of Memphis, where (before franchises) good Southern cooking
 was a way of life. Memphis would not be "Memphis" without "Pappy's
 Lobster Shack."

- b. John Thomas Sammons b 12 May 1892 m Lois Rose
- c. Wiley B. Sammons b 4 Oct 1894 1/wf Ruby Tisdale,
 2/wf Blanch Brizenbine.
- d. Jerome Hill Sammons, b 14 Apr 1897 m Gertie Yow
- e. George Wm. Sammons b 22 Feb 1900 m Lois Randolph

f. Lillie Burton Sammons b 6 Jun 1903 m Alvin Hesselbein. I am indebted to Lillie for helpful information about the family. She lives in Memphis where she and others of her family operate the automobile tire and oil business established by her late husband. Their children, all but one living, are:

1. Minnie Carolyn Dawes b 1924; son, Eugene Dawes
2. Alvin Harland 1926-1933
3. William Clarke b 1930, dau Linda Lee
4. Patricia Joan b 1935
5. Barbara Lee Glueck b 1943, daus Nicole Lee Glueck and Karla Lynn Glueck.

g. R. W. Sammons 1906-1910

Many descendents of Clark and Minnie Neely Sammons are citizens of Memphis and Shelby County today, useful and prosperous families. We shall meet more of the Sammons family shortly since Minnie's younger sister, Mary Burton Neely, also m into the Sammons family.

2. Walter Neely b 9 Sep 1870 d 10 May 1953, 1/wf Etta Jones who d 31 May 1899 Fayette Co Tn. Issue:

a. Mary Neely b 4 Jun 1894 d 28 Jan 1975 m Conrad Bollinger, Memphis, Tn; he b 17 Jun 1893 d 14 Jan 1966. Issue:

1. Conrad Neely Bolinger, wf Mary Louise, live in Chicago, his parents having moved to the Midwest area and reared their family there, moving to the warmer climate of St. Petersburg, Fla. at retirement time. Evelyn Carol Bollinger, dau of Conrad N. and Mary Louise Bollinger is a registered nurse with responsible job in a Chicago hospital; their son, David Bollinger, was a late-comer into the family and is in school.

2. Irma Jo Bollinger m Robert Dopp, lives in West Alice, Wis. They have three ch: (1) Robert Dopp, Jr., Attended U of Wis. is m; (2) Bonnie Jo Dopp. Ed. American U. Teaching in Washington. Worked in Peace Corps in Africa and Korea; (3) Mary Dopp m. I have no record of her hus name or of her accomplishments, which I am sure are in keeping with others of this fine family.

3. Doris Bollinger m Wayne Armstrong, Both have degrees from Purdue and Notre Dame; he Chief Dealer Representative of the U.S. for Mercedes-Benz Co. Two ch are Christy Armstrong who lives in Austin, Tx and Thomas Armstrong (perhaps others).

b. Irma Neely b 14 Aug 1896 m Carl Walton b 14 Nov 1895 Memphis Tn. Moved to New Jersey early in m. Issue:

1. Rev. Carlyle Walton dec. This fine young Methodist minister was in charge, I believe, of Trafco, (Television, Radio and Film Commission of the Methodist Church), Hdqs. in Nashville, Tenn. some years ago and was a victim of a plane crash in East River as he flew to New York with a group of his fellow-workers. A tragic loss to his family and friends and to many others whose lives he touched through his work.
2. Mary Etta Walton, a Registered Nurse, Dallas, Tx; m Andy Wheeley 2 daus, Linda and Deborah;
3. Lee Walton, M. D. Grad. Harvard School of Medicine. Pediatrician living in Marion, Ind.
4. Wynnie Walton, Med. Librarian m Harold Mills, Jr. ch; Kenneth and Becky Mills. Their home is Florham Park, N. J.
5. Joseph Walton. At Woodbine Colony School, Woodbine N. J. His activities include Scout work, gardening. Like his parents, he is a good singer.

Irma and Carl are enjoying retirement yrs in Ocean City, N. J.

2/wf, Sadie Thomas m 1 Apr 1905. She b 21 Nov, 1872, d 7 Aug 1926 dau of Robert Jetton Thomas and Linnie Alma Dickey Thomas of Shelby Co. Tn. Both bur Raleigh cem.
Issue:

c. Walter Neely, Jr. b 13 Feb 1906 Shelby Co m Marguerite Dilliard b 26 Nov 1910. Walter and Marguerite have given me invaluable assistance and much moral support through knowledge of the family and their interest in this project. They are active in a number of local cultural and patriotic institutions and in the Episcopal Church.

3. Lillian (Lillie) Neely b 23 Apr 1873 d 4 Jun 1942 m Daniel Whitley b 12 Sep 1873 d 14 May 1915, both bur in Melrose cem, Whiteville, as are many other Neelys. Issue:

a. Grover Grady Whitley, M. D. b 29 Aug 1892 m Florence Barrett b 25 Dec 1919. Issue: Barbara Whitley m Arthur Harris

b. Ruthie D. Whitley m Barney Roper. Mr. Roper is compiling a history of this branch of the family. Congratulations, Barney, and Happy Hunting!

4. William Edwin Neely b 21 Jul 1876 Hardeman Co d 2 Sep 1956 m Ripley Tn 8 Jun 1907, Helen Maclin b 8 Mar 1878 d 23 May 1958. Both bur Shelby Co. Issue:

a. Helen Neely m Charles Humphrey. Prominent citizens of Cordova, Shelby Co. Helen a former school teacher and administrator, active in historic and cultural orgnizations.

5. Mary Burton (Birdie) Neely b 25 Jun 1880 d 23 Sep 1939 m Julius Sammons, Sr. b 5 Aug 1873 d 12 Jun 1963, Harde- man Co. If my previously mentioned deductions are cor- rect, Birdie was named for her gr-mor, who was, I believe, Mary L. Burton, dau of Charles Burton, of Henderson Co Tn. Issue:

- a. Burnell Sammons m Mary Opal Priddy 14 Dec 1924.
b. Althena Sammons m Charles Hesselbein 25 Jan 1928.
c. Iva Sammons m Aaron Walker 29 Nov 1934.
d. Wiley Sammons m Elizabeth Piper 9 Jun 1940.
e. A. D. Sammons m Nannie W. Seymour 27 Feb. 1934.
f. Julius Sammons, Jr. m (1) Ola Belle Simpson d 4 Jul 1969. (2) Elizabeth Stewart m 31 Jul 1971.

Ch of Julius Sammons, Jr. and Ola Belle Simpson Sammons are:

1. Jeanette Sammons m Beverly Ray Norment, ch Kevin Ray and Karen Norment;
2. Mary Camille Sammons m Edmond Blanton O'Neill, son, Edmond Blanton O'Neill;

3. David Winston Sammons m Barbara Ann Carter,
dau Kimberly Carter;

4. Julius Leonidas Sammons, III, unm.

This branch of the family, well known and respected in several West Tennessee Counties, could well be the subject of an interesting publication of their own. I regret that my personal knowledge of the family is too limited to give but the barest statistics.

ly. I do know Julius. And Elizabeth. In past years I've wandered over four continents, (whatever happened to Africa and Australia) but I think Julius will agree that I was as excited over a trip as a person can be when he told me he could take me to the T. J. Neely cem. I had heard of it ever since I came into the family in 1919. It was inaccessible, they said. A wasteland of gullies and dry clay where only weeds could grow. And it was. Then.

3 When we turned into the field from the narrow country road, we saw
1e great tractor-drawn plows turning row after row of good, arable soil. In the midst of this was an oasis of dense, damp shade surrounding and sheltering the graves and the old but still beautiful stones.

The cemetery ground-cover of myrtle, which had once covered each grave, now spread a thick mantle of green over the entire area. Rows of cedars, probably a century and a half old, stood sentinel around the border, shading out the possibility of weeds and wild grasses so often rampant in small cemeteries. Only one other plant was tolerated by the persistent and greedy myrtle. Julius, shall I tell them about the poison-ivy?

As I ran my hands through the leaves, checking names on stones, Julius asked, "Are you allergic to poison-ivy?" I was and I am, but I happily endured the next two weeks of calamine and all the other things one tries for the duration of its havoc.

I'd like very much to go again.

Where was I? O, yes, Robert P. and Mary L. Neely have two more children:

h. John Andrew Jackson Neely b Hardeman Co 1846 d 1920.
bur in Melrose Cem with his wf Alice C. Kyle Neely

1853-1922 and their son, Walter Emory Neely, 1884-1955.

Lillie Hesselbein, their niece, who has graciously responded to every call I have made upon her, told me that she recalls staying in the home of "Uncle Jack" while in school and she remembers them well.

I happened upon the record of a sad experience in the life of this couple. In McCully Cemetery on Hwy 64, about seven miles west of Somerville in Fayette Co., there is a stone inscribed, "Twin Daughters of J. A. J. & C. A. Neely. 3 Sep 1871 two days old". A century ago, but we are saddened.

1. Robert Philip (Bob) Neely b 1847 unm lived to old age.

I am grateful to all those of this branch who have assisted me and regret that there may have been other information for which I failed to ask. Many of those who have gone before us are buried in the T. J. Neely Cemetery. The names of all those for whom we found markers are listed elsewhere in this little annal. This brings us the end of our account of the descendents of Robert P. Neely, fifth child of Major James and Eleanor Neely.

We now turn to the sixth child of James and Eleanor:

6. Mary H. Neely, sixth ch of Major James and Eleanor Phillips Neelly b 1811 Rutherford Co Tn m John B. Phillips. Elizabeth Neely, the 7th ch, m Madison Phillips, bro of John, therefore I should like to digress again and give some information on this branch of the Phillips family;

William Phillips, father of John B. and Madison Phillips was b in Wales in 1773. He came to America in 1795 with his bro Philip (Philip Phillips was a distressingly common name among the Welsh at that time) and an elderly male cousin. They came to the home of their relative, Philip Phillips of Davidson Co. Tn., as immigrants usually did upon arriving in the new and very strange land called America. Mrs. Sallie Burnett, of Waco, Tx gr-gr-dau of William, said she had been told this story as a young girl.

About 1797, William m Nancy Henderson of Davidson Co dau of William and Jane Henderson, of Md., where Nancy was b 25 Dec 1775. She d 6 Sep 1852 in Larue Co. Ky. bur in the Combs family cem near Eagle Mills Community.

William Phillips, who had become a friend of Andrew Jackson, enlisted in the War of 1812. A Colonel, he was with James Neelly (then Capt. Neelly) at the Battle of New Orleans. (They were the same age-b 1773.)

Ch of Col. William and Nancy Henderson Phillips, all b Davidson Co:

1. William Henderson Phillips b 1798
2. Isaac Cullen Phillips b 1800 settled Ark
3. John B. Phillips b 1803 " "
4. Madison Phillips b 1805 " "
5. Josiah Phillips b 1808
6. James Phillips b 1809 d young
7. David Phillips b 1810
8. Philip Purdy Phillips b 1812. In Larue Co Ky 1837

John B. Phillips b 6 Nov 1803 Davidson Co. Tn d 27 Sep 1875, moved with prts to Hardin Co Ky (which had been the home of Philip and Susannah Phillips before 1790) in 1823, but went with his elder bro, Isaac, to Hardeman Co Tn, now the home of Cousin Eleanor's family, in 1837. There he m Mary H. Neely in 1841. When Isaac moved his family to Dallas Co Ark in 1846, John moved his family also. Mary, perhaps unhappy over John's tendency to follow Isaac, took consolation from the promise of a splendid new home. She gathered many tiny cedar seedlings, which grew so profusely in West Tn, transported them and set them out in two long rows, flanking the long, spacious drive from the road to the columned entrance of the large colonial home that John had promised her. The home burned a century later (1946), I am told, and the ancient cedars now lead the way to a smaller, less pretentious white cottage, no longer in the Phillips family.

The late Mrs. Thomas H. Bowles, who told this story in "The Arkansas Family Historian", says, "Mary was the daughter of Major James and Eleanor Phillips Neely and sister of two famous Methodist ministers, Rev. Philip Phillips Neely and the Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely".

Children of Mary H. and John B. Phillips were:

- a. Anne Ellen Phillips b 1 Nov 1843 Hardeman Co
Tn d 11 Dec 1880 m John A. Sullenberger 9 May
1867. He b 18 Feb 1838 d 1 Jul 1906, Malvern,

Ark. Issue: three daus, Mary "Betty", Virginia F., Sally W. Sullenberger. Last two lived Waco, Tx;

- b. William James Phillips (Bud) 1846-1864 d Civil War
- c. David Franklin Phillips 1850-1945 1/wf Mary Nora Lockeridge, 2/wf Texanna Barbee, d 1943 at Leola Ark where they had a store for many yrs. Issue: Annie Ellen Phillips and Nora John Phillips.

The pattern of naming the ch is evident here:

"Anne" for Mary's Aunt Ann Hardeman; "Ellen" for her mor;
 "William" for John's Fa; "James" for Mary's fa;
 "David" for John's bro; "Franklin" for Mary's bro.

- d. Philip John Phillips, 1852-1940 m Nancy Katherine (Kate) Stiles 1867-1953 both bur Hunter's Chapel. Issue: Homer Hodge Phillips, b 1887 d 1969 m Iola Smith. Both bur Hunter's Chapel.

- 7. Elizabeth Neely b 1813 Rutherford Co Tn m 1836 Hardeman Co Madison Phillips b 1805 Hardin Co. Ky. Madison took his family to Camden Ark where he had a tanning shop. Is thought to have d in Columbia Co 1865.

Ch of Elizabeth Neely and Madison Phillips were:

- a. Nancy J. Phillips b 1837 Hardeman Co Tn;
- b. John C. Phillips b 1840 Hardeman Co Tn;
- c. James K. Polk Phillips b 1842, Hardeman Co Tn;
- d. Josiah P. Phillips b 1844, Hardeman Co Tn;
- e. Isaac Phillips b 1848, Dallas Co Ark;

Only Isaac's m and descendents are given by Mrs. Bowles. Isaac m 1875 Julia "Fox" Phillips (grdau of Isaac C. Phillips) dau of Ralph P. and Lizzie Nix Phillips. They moved to Tx, had two ch, div, and she was back with her parents in the 1880 cen, bringing the ch with her. The 2nd ch, William Purdy Phillips, b 1879 in Tx, d 1941, bur in Tulip, Ark cem. No record of a family. Their dau, Annie Gray Phillips, b 1875 m 23 Jan 1893 to Jim Polk Scrimshire, son of Isaac B. ("Frank") Scrimshire and Mary Ann Rice. This couple had eleven ch leaving a large number of grch of Elizabeth and Madison, none named Phillips, however.

8. Sarah A. J. Neely b 11 Oct 1816 Rutherford Co Tn d
Dallas Co Ark 11 Feb 1890.

Sarah m William C. Bellew 1 Apr 1846, Hardeman Co Tn. The Bondsmen were Hugh S. McCarty and H. A. Stephens; James E. Rodgers, J. P. (The Bellews were early settlers in Middle and West Tn, but I was unable to find his family in Hardeman Co.) They also moved to Dallas Co. Ark. William's occupation was listed as "wagoning" in the 1850 Cen, his assets at \$300, which was not bad for a young man. In 1860 it was \$2,100, which would include Sarah's inheritance from her mor in 1850, mentioned in another context.

According to her obituary, Sarah had four daus. Her son, James was not mentioned. I believe he had d. She had then been a widow for many yrs.

Arkansas censuses were quite inaccurate. I shall copy their record as it was:

1850 cen Dallas Co Ark

Wm. C. Bellew M 30 Wagoning \$300 Tn
Sarah A. J. Bellew F 32 - Tn
Phillipa ? Bellew F 3 Tn
Susan M. Bellew F 2 Ark
Alice Bellew F 1 Ark

1860 cen Dallas Co Ark

W. C. Bellew 40 Farmer \$2100
S. A. J. Bellew 42
Henrietta ? Bellew 13
Nancy B. Bellew 12
Alice A. Bellew 11
James F. Bellew 6
Margaret Bellew 4

The eldest ch's name was not entirely legible in either yr, but it was not the same name. Their land was in Smith Twp., as was John B. Phillips, Wm. L. Bird and T. J. B. Neely during his brief career as a farmer.

In 1870, William has d and perhaps son James. I didn't find Sarah's 3 eldest daus; probably all married. You won't believe this, but I found little Margaret, 14, m to Simeon Giles, 16, in their own H. H.

Cheer Up! In 1880 the young couple, (he 26 and she 24, of course), had son James, 2 and son John, 1 yr. On the same land, is Jane Ballou, age 62. She almost "made" the 1890 cen since she d in Feb of that yr but cen is not taken until the first of June.

A reference to Sarah Ann Jane's obituary may reveal something of her life. When she d in 1890, the Rev. James E. Caldwell closed a lengthy eulogy with this observation, "The d of Sister Bellew was as peaceful and triumphant as her life had been happy and useful... then referred to "the religion that sustained her through a long life of toil, affliction and trouble (and) gave her victory in death". Is this the daughter of our James—who always seemed to have the easy way to the best of everything? Toil, affliction and trouble—she must have been a great soul. I'm sorry I could not find her other daughters. Her home with Simeon and Mary Giles in 1880 was my only clue. Perhaps some of you other Neelys can find them.

9. Philip Phillips Neely, ninth ch of Major James and Eleanor Phillips Neely, was b 9 Sep 1819 in Rutherford Co. Tenn.

His parents moved to Henderson Co. Tn. in 1825, but Philip's orientation seems to have been in Middle Tennessee, since he must have been educated there. His first marriage took place in Williams County; the second in Maury County, where he spent his early adult years.

Philip's brother, Thomas Jefferson Neely, sixteen years his senior, had become a wealthy planter in Hardeman County Tennessee when Philip was old enough for higher education. In reminiscence, years later, Thomas J. said, "P. P. Neely, a younger brother whom I educated, proved a great power in the ministry and I feel grateful at having been the humble instrument in starting out such a shining light."

Philip married Mrs. Henrietta Parks Keffer in 1840. Her gravestone in Old City Cemetery, Franklin, Tennessee, reads, "Henrietta Parks Neely 10 July 1823-6 March 1847", and beside hers another stone, engraved, "John Edwin Polk Neely, 1847", thus revealing a sad fact of life and death existing at that time and for many years to come. According to a notice in the "Christian Record", 20 March 1847, Henrietta died in Columbia, Tennessee.

Philip had joined the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church 9 September 1837, and became Junior Preacher on the Jackson Circuit, this church having been organized eleven years earlier by his elder brother, the Rev. Thomas J. Neely. In 1840, when West Tennessee became the Memphis Conference, both brothers became Charter Members, Philip being stationed at Holly Springs, Mississippi, which area was in Memphis Conference at that time.

Philip was appointed President of Columbia Female Academy in 1845, where he served two years and where his wife and child died. He was then made "traveling agent" for the Transylvania University (unknown to me) for two years.

Called to the Alabama Conference in 1848, (having been a visiting preacher at St. Francis Street Methodist in Mobile in 1845), he was Presiding Elder of the Tuscaloosa District in 1849 appointments and later served with distinction Columbus, Mississippi; Marion, Alabama; Mobile and others, "thrilling his audiences by his gifted tongue", says one biographer. "He was ever disposed to put the very best construction on the conduct of others. Being eminently catholic in sentiment and feeling, he exhibited affectionate and fraternal regard for all the people of God." This in a time when animosity among denominations was often construed to be a mark of religious fervor and piety.

Dr. Brewer selects, in his History of Alabama, Dr. P. P. Neely as the representative man of the Pulpit.

"As a Preacher Dr. Neely had few equals. He was keenly alive to the beautiful and sublime, and his rare powers of description enabled him to portray his vivid conceptions with thrilling effect." - (Stated Bishop Payne)

He was always attractive and instructive, and sometimes was almost overwhelming. His pleasing and impressive Person, his tall and erect form, his easy and graceful manners, and his clear and musical voice, like a fine toned instrument in the hands of a skillful musician, gave him great advantage.

Bishop Bascom, upon hearing Mr. Neely preach while Neely was yet young, said:- "That man has eloquence enough, as a popular speaker in a disturbed country, to produce a revolution." One volume of his sermons was published during his life, another for his widow after his death.

Recently a newspaper, "The Columbia Herald", of Columbia, Tennessee, in a remnescent column, recalls the arrival in that city in the 1830's of Mrs. Towler; "A widow with three children...moved here from Kentucky. Joseph, Jessie and Julia were bright, well known children. Jessie married Philip Neely, a Methodist minister of fine ability who died some years ago in Mobile. She has almost ever since been a teacher in a public school in Birmingham". Jessie's sister, Julia, became the wife of another outstanding Methodist minister, the Rev. William Ira

Powers, of Alabama. Their brother, Joseph, became a doctor beloved by all in Columbia, Tennessee.

Dr. J. B. McFerrin, a contemporary also born in Rutherford County, where their fathers and gr-fathers had been friends, said of Philip, "He was the most eloquent man in the pulpit, South." Philip died 9 November 1869 in Mobile.

Dr. Jefferson Hamilton, an outstanding minister of that day, said in an address at the funeral of Philip, "In the course of his labors, God gave him many souls to his ministry in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama...but the end has come; the eloquent lips, the beaming eye are closed in death! The winning voice and earnest pleadings are silent forever! That end was peace."

The cause of death was usually given as Yellow Fever, which had given me cause to wonder, since Dr. Hamilton and others had given details of loved ones at the bedside when death came--hardly plausible in the case of such a dread disease. It seems he had Yellow Fever and survived it, but in such a weakened condition that death came later. He was buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile. Jessie Alice, a teacher in Birmingham, died there September 23, 1903; is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery there; ch of Philip Phillips and Jessie Alice Towler Neely were:

- a. Allen H. Ryland Neely, d inf
- b. Julia E. Neely m 1869 in Mobile, Edwin W. Finch.
An "author and writer", d Birmingham 1926. Issue:
 1. Edwin Wilson Finch, d Birmingham 1942
 2. Lucine Finch, poet, artist, dramatics teacher,
d at her home in Connecticut, 1947

Ch of Edwin Wilson Finch are Edwin Wilson Finch, Jr., and Mrs. Alice Finch Smith, both of Birmingham. (in 1974)

10. _____ Neely (son) b ca 1825. In the 1830 Census of Henderson Co. Tn., the James Neelly H. H. recorded "2 Males between 5 and 10 yrs old. I thought these surely must be visiting gr-ch. Wm. and Franklin had boys that age. Then I discovered Nancy, b 1830. Eleven yrs younger than Philip. A large gap, indeed. I began to look for Male Neellys in that age group who had names not used for the older boys; James, John, Joseph, Andrew, Samuel--a wide choice.

by Two Neelys 25-28 yrs old with any of those names in the 1850 Census. The family was in Hardeman Co. by 1850, when given names were recorded. There I found John J. (James or Joseph?)! He is the 11th ch. So I believe this 10th ch may have d in Henderson Co. before 1840.

11. John J. Neely, b ca 1827, Henderson Co. Tn., listed in Hardeman Co. 1850 Census; age 25 yrs. occupation, Lawyer. (He is "age 33" in the 1860 Census, which is probably correct.)

When I found a deed signed by Eleanor (Ellen), dated 26 Oct 1850 deeding land and slaves to John J., Nancy E. and Sarah A. J. Neely, I had proof of this son, and felt sure that if the other son were living he would have participated in Eleanor's gift. In the 1860 Census, taken 1 Jun 1860, John's age is listed as 33 yrs., worth \$3000, wf Mariah (Marsh) m 1 Jul 1858, age 16. (errors in Census dates and ages rather common) son Thomas J., age one yr. The Marsh family came from Chatham Co., N. C. John J. may have been dealing in land (and city lots;) seven deeds dated 1859-60 and one in 1867, perhaps others in Hardeman Co. in Deed Books.

I shall continue to seek proven identity of the sixth son of James and Eleanor Neely, expecting that the names would have been chosen from the traditional Neely family names listed above.

12. Nancy E. Neely, twelfth ch and fifth dau of Maj. James and Eleanor Neely b 1830 Henderson Co. Tn. m William Lafayette Bird, b 1824, N. C., son of Wm. C. Bird, b 1778 in Md., m (1) Virginia Dalton, N. C., (2) Elizabeth _____

The first I learned of Nancy was when I read the following in "Arkansas Family Historian"; "Hunter's Chapel Cemetery is located on Hyway 9 between Lone and Tulip in the Northern part of Dallas County, one-half mile south of the Hot Springs County line. No markers before 1870. First interment on record was that of Nancy Neely, 1830-1853, first wife of William L. Bird, and daughter of Maj. James and Eleanor Phillips Neely".

In the 1850 Census, Smith Twp., Dallas Co., Ark., we find Ellen (Eleanor) Neely, age 70, b Ky. in the H. H. of John B. Phillips and wf Mary. Another member of the H. H. is Nancy Neely, age 23. Correct

ages, 68 yrs. and 20 yrs., such was carelessness of the Census-taker who never dreamed of the multitudes that would be looking over his shoulder in future generations. We are grateful to him, though, and find his services invaluable.

A short distance away, in the H. H. of Joseph Bird, 26, b N. C. and wife, Eliza, 22 b Tn. is Joseph's brother, William L. Bird 24, a potter, b N. C.

William was also the brother of James and Nathaniel Bird who founded the first Pottery in this area in 1843. William set up another Pottery, using the Butler (clay) bed about two miles south of Tulip. William Bird m Nancy Neely during this time.

In the 1860 cen Eleanor, age 78, is again listed in the John B. Phillips H. H. (John's fa, Col William Phillips, listed, d that yr.) Also in the Phillips home is:

Thomas Bird, age 7 yrs. I am told that Thomas never m.

Nancy must have died at his birth. His fa m a widow, Mrs. Vesta Samuels Phillips, who "may have been the dau of Henry Samuels", and was quite possibly the widow of one of the numerous descendents of Col. William Phillips, of Wales. I do not know. They had several ch.

Hunter's Chapel is a spot sacred to many Neelys and Phillips who have loved ones buried there.

Do you recall that many pages back, we passed lightly over the name of Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely, preferring to devote the last portion of this book to an account of his life and that of his family? We shall now attempt to do that.

But I believe it is fitting to give first an account of the family background of Charity Springfield, 3/wf of Thomas J. Neely and more of eleven of his thirteen ch who survived infancy, there being eighteen ch in all.

THE THOMAS SPRINGFIELD FAMILY

Charity Springfield, 3/wf of the Rev. Thomas J. Neely, was b 23 Apr 1818, Chatham Co. N. C., dau of Thomas and Nancy Williams Springfield. Since Charity was the mor of thirteen of her husband's eighteen ch, it seems appropriate to give as much history of her pts as our research permits.

Thomas Springfield was the son of _____ Springfield and Elizabeth _____ Springfield. I have no record of the first name of his fa or the surname of his mor. Ch were:

1. John Springfield b ca 1783 m 9 Jul 1803 Person Co. N. C. Frances Buckham (m bonds signed by Arthur Buckham and Thomas Newsen). The place of their m is the first clue which connects Thomas with Moses Springfield, who was in Person Co. in 1800 cen with wf and five young ch. (He must be the bro of Thomas' fa.) John Springfield d 1805, left wf, son William Springfield and ch 'in esse'. Chatham Co. WB 'A' p 117.
2. Thomas Springfield b 22 May 1786 d 18 Apr 1867, Hardeman Co. Tn.
3. Anson Springfield b ca 1788 (May have been younger than Benjamin.) He sold his rights to his mor's estate in 1827 to his bro, Benjamin, for \$100! She lived until 1841. Anson was in Smith Co. Tn. as late as 1811 but settled in Marengo Co, Ala., had twelve ch. All appeared to have m well according to the cen records (1850-1870). Many of his descendents went to Louisiana and to Austin Co. (and other Counties), Tx.
4. Benjamin Springfield b ca 1788-1790. I do not know in which County in N. C. his sons were b, but I believe Benjamin remained in Chatham Co. where they were reared, until his mor d in 1841, and came to Hardeman Co. Tn ca 1842, with his family. The young Springfields listed in the "Hardeman Co. Marriages" in the 1850's are probably his grch.

Thomas Springfield had three half-sisters and a half-bro who are also related to his ch, altho their name is Rush. It appears that Thomas' fa d ca 1790, since they had ch up to that time. Elizabeth then m Benjamin Rush, a much older man already the fa of nine ch,

all m when his WILL was made. He was one of the Penna family, probably a nephew of Benjamin Rush, who signed the Declaration of Independence. His 1/wf, Sarah Bledsoe White Rush had d in 1790. Ch of Benjamin and Elizabeth Springfield Rush were:

1. Ruth Rush m (1) W. A. Stokes, (2) Hardy Christian;
2. Judith Rush m Wm. Thomas 1 Feb 1816; then Joseph Avent ca 1820
3. Elizabeth Rush m James Perkins;
4. Benjamin Rush (Two sons of same given name; different surnames).

There is a conflict here that has disturbed the equanimity of many researcher; legatees in Elizabeth Springfield Rush's WILL were (among others) her grch, Harriet Cox and Anson Cox. The inference is that they are the ch of a dec dau, called Myra. The desc of Harriet and Anson Cox have looked in vain for more data, as she represents a missing generation in their ancestral line. The only mention of her is made by Thomas Stokes in a Gift Deed of a child slave to Myra, prompted by his love and appreciation of Elizabeth, who is the mor of Myra, according to this deed. (DB 'Z' Chatham Co. N. C. p 50, 24 Feb 1809)

There were Springfields in Northampton, Halifax, Person, Edgecomb, and perhaps others before they came to Chatham Co. I believe they had migrated from Virginia. They were by no means a numerous family, however.

Richard Springfield, Northampton Co., d 17 Jul 1747, sons (in WILL) were Joseph, Exec. and Richard Springfield.

Moses Springfield, in Person Co. Tax List; 100 a, 1 poll (Nash Dist p 88). His family remained in Person Co through 1840 cen, when his sons were m and had families, but no identification except the H. H. as each one m and his name appears as head of house.

Using this as a guide, I have named his sons (there were four daus, but no way to identify them through the early cen):

Francis Springfield, b ca 1782;
 Moore Springfield, b 1784 (ca);
 George Springfield, b ca 1791 m 29 Dec 1825 Rebecca Mitchell,

Moore Springfield, B'man;
 William Springfield, b ca 1801, m Dec 3, 1823 Elizabeth Buckham,
 John P. Buckham, B'man;
 Richard Springfield, b ca 1810, m 5 May 1835 Mary Gentry, John S.
 Buckham.

In the Person Co. N. C. m records, we also found the m on 9 Jul 1803, of John Springfield to Frances Buckham, with Arthur Buckham and Thomas Lawsen, B'men. If this is Elizabeth Springfield Rush's eldest son, John, who d 1805, leaving wf, Frances Buchannon (sic) with son, William Springfield, and pregnant, this shows a definite connection with this Person Co. family. It appears Thomas' fa was probably a bro of Moses, altho their families' given names are in no instance identical. This is quite unusual.

Perhaps I should say here that the Thomas Springfield who m Dicey Langston in Laurens Co., S. C. after the Rev. and had large family, was not directly connected with the family of Elizabeth Springfield Rush, and the relationship has not been established. Any light on the problems of relationships in this family would give pleasure to many researchers.

Moses Springfield was +60 in the 1830 cen Person Co., and was not in the 1840 cen. In fact, I believe that only William and Richard appeared in 1840.

Aaron Springfield, b 1761, was in Rev. in Capt. James Currin's Company, Granville Co., N. C. I see no reason why he could not be the bro of Moses and the fa of our Thomas, but there is no proof. They surely were brothers.

Thomas Springfield's obit, given elsewhere, does not give the County of his birth. Elizabeth and Benjamin Rush were in Franklin Co., adj. to Person Co in 1800. John Springfield, now ca twenty yrs of age was not in the H.H. which consisted of the other three Springfield sons and the four Rush ch. John m in Person Co. three yrs later, as we said.

But the Rush family must have moved to Chatham Co. (far from the Virginia-line Counties that had been their home) during the months between the cen taking in 1800 and the date of Benjamin Rush's WILL, 28 Apr., 1801.

Thomas Springfield m (1) Martha Walker, Chatham Co. N. C. ca 1810; she d 29 Apr 1813, leaving one dau:

1. Sarah Springfield b 21 May 1811, Chatham Co. N. C., d 8 Nov 1888, Hardeman Co. Tn, m 23 Feb 1832 Chatham Co. Richard DeBerry Cross b 7 Apr 1809 Chatham Co d 29 Mar 1874, Hardeman Co Tn. Their ch (not in order of birth), were:

a. W. T. Cross b ca 1833 m Sarah A. Crowder (1831-1914);

b. N. B. Cross 4 May 1846-17 Jan 1906 m Elizabeth (Lizzie) Jarman, 11 Dec 1867, she b 8 Jun 1850 d 23 Dec 1913. Two sons, John B. and Nap B. and four daus. He pur the homestead in 1879, after his fa d.

c. Emma Louise Cross m Dr. Abraham Rhea, b Maury Co. Tn son of Matthew and Mary Looney Rhea, both of Sullivan Co. Tn; grson of Matthew Rhea, officer in Rev., and grgrson of Joseph Rhea grad of U. of Glasgow and Presbyterian minister. Four sons and four daus, all b Hardeman Co. Tn.

d. Mrs. Dr. Buchanan (from her mor's obit; all I have)

e. Emily Cross m T. A. Green.

f. "Miss Puss" Cross (I believe her name was 'Eddie') Their mor made her home with the last two daus in a "pretty white cottage" in the town of Whiteville after her husband's d.

Thomas Springfield m (2) Nancy Williams, (dau of Burwell Williams, prominent planter of Chatham Co. N. C.) b 5 Sep 1780 d 9 Mar 1845. Thomas and Nancy came to Denmark, Madison Co. Tn. in 1838 with a large group of friends and relatives who came from Chatham Co. over a period of years. All their ch were b in Chatham Co. Ch were:

2. Elizabeth W. Springfield b 25 Mar 1815 m Oct. 1833 Frederick B. Ragland b 28 Mar 1813 son of William and Sarah Barham Ragland. Moved to Denmark in 1835, then to Fayette Co. He served in the legislature 1861-1865, then

settled in Haywood Co where he was an influential citizen. Ch
(from 1850 cen):

- a. Nancy H. b 1835;
- b. Mary F. b 1838;
- c. Milton b 1840;
- d. Thomas F. (Lieut.) b 1843 killed in Battle of Chickamauga, CW
- e. Frederick b 1845 C W, enlisted at age 16;
- f. Alvin b 1847;
- g. Elizabeth b 1850
- h. No record after 1850
- i. son, d 1871, recorded in his mor's obit.

Their mor, Elizabeth S. Ragland d 7 Jan 1884 while visiting dau in Jackson, Tn. Their fa was living in 1890, do not know date of d.

3. Blount Springfield b 26 Nov 1816 m Elizabeth DeGraffenreid member of a most interesting N. C. family, the first in this country being Baron DeGraffenried, a Swiss who brought a colony of select Swiss families to settle "New Bern", N. C. quite early. In Feb 1792, in Guilford Co. N. C., Baker DeGraffenreid d; his administratrix to sell personal property. Baker was a favorite name. Earlier, Mary Baker DeGraffenreid had m Gideon Johnson, of Rockingham Co.; perpetuating prominent families. Blount and Elizabeth named their only ch Baker Claudius, b 1846, Fayette Co. Tn.

- a. Baker Claudius Springfield m (1) Carolyn (Callie) Totten 24 Nov 1869. Madison Co. Callie's fa,

A. W. O. Totten had d the previous year and her mor prior to his d; Callie d in childbirth and was bur with her infant ch 18 Sep 1871, Jackson, Tn.

Baker C. Springfield m (2) Jane Deaderick, dau of Michael David and Jane Park Deaderick of Shelby Co. Tn. Their ch were:

- 1. Baker DeGraffenreid Springfield b ca 1900 m Ethel Morris, Obion Co. Tn. Ch were:

- a. Baker D. Springfield, Jr.
- b. Eleanor S. Flanigan, div 3 ch;
- c. William Claudius Springfield, m Sally Ann Knight Landis Ch:

1. William Claudius Springfield, Jr.
2. Robert Michael Springfield
3. Sarah Susan Springfield, b 3 May, 1976

I do not have dates on this family, but County records have become so complete that there will be no struggle for data in future generations. I am especially pleased to have been able to include this family because they will be necessary factors in keeping the Thomas Springfield name current. I count among my friends the grmor of these three ch. She is Sallye Knight (Mrs. Sessell) Wayne.

Sally Ann Knight Landis, mor of these little Springfields, is the dau of Justus Lamar Knight, dec. and Sarah Newell Wright Knight Wayne, he b Shelby Co Tn and she b Marshall Co Ms.

2. Jane Park Springfield, a retired Memphis School Teacher, remembered fondly by many present-day worthy citizens of the city.

4. Charity Springfield. Charity will be the subject of the next chapter, with her husband, Rev. T. J. Neely.

5. Burwell W. Springfield (named for his grfa, Burwell Williams) b 19 Mar 1820, d 23 Aug 1837, Chatham Co. N. C., a yr before the family, with many friends and related families, moved to Madison Co. Tn.

6. Temperance H. Springfield b 11 Oct 1822 m (3/wf) Anderson Skillern 1847, Madison Co. Tn. He was b 1805. The Skillerns come from Virginia. They were large land owners and quite numerous. In Bledsoe Co Tn, 1819 John McIver sold land to John, James and Anderson Skillern and in 1828 to Thomas Skillern. (Bledsoe Co Tn Deeds Vol 1, 1797-1838). Anderson Skillern of Madison Co Tn must have been the son of one of these (probably) brothers. Some of the family settled in Lawrence Co. Tn. and some later went to Ark.

Anderson Skillern seems to be the only one who came to Madison Co. Tn. He paid taxes first in 1829, and he must have been m at that

time. In the 1850 cen Madison Co., Anderson has a son, Stephen L. (S?) Skillern, b 1830; another son, John A. Skillern, b 1832. I have no record of the d of the mor of these sons, but on Dec 1, 1841, Anderson Skillern m Maryann Buchanan (of the family intermarried with the Springfields), being also from Chatham Co. N. C. She was b 11 Oct 1818, d 16 May 1845 bur Ebenezer Cem, south of Denmark, where her two brothers Samuel and John W. Buchanan died, in their early twenties, were bur.

1. In 1847 Anderson Skillern m Temperance H. Springfield. The 1850 cen shows two more sons:

- a. Stephen L. Skillern age 20;
- b. John A. Skillern age 18, ch of the 1st wf;
- c. Thomas B. Skillern, 2 yrs.
- d. James C. Skillern, 1 yr. (others b after 1850.)

F. B. Ragland, his bro-in-law, had engaged in the merchantile business with Skillern for a few years before selling out his interest and moving to Fayette Co. Skillern himself sold the business and moved to White Co. Ark in 1855. He d there in 1858, six months before their last ch, named Anderson, was b. This son d in early manhood, leaving "a number of brothers and sisters". There were others of the Springfield and Skillern families in the northwest part of Arkansas by that time.

In 1869, when Thomas Springfield had died and his estate was settled, I notice that her share was to 'T. H. Ragdale', so it appears that Tempie had m again, and possibly was again a widow. (Perhaps should be Ragsdale.)

Nancy Williams Springfield d 9 May 1845 in Madison Co. Tn.

Since many members of the family of Burwell Williams came to Denmark, Tn. from Chatham, N. C. after 1830, I think it may be helpful to some of my readers to have the names of his other daus and their husbands. I am taking their names from Burwell Williams' WILL and adding given names when I know them:

Sarah Ragland
 Martha Snipes (Thomas)
 Mary Buttrill
 Elizabeth Cross

Fanny Utley
 Nancy Springfield (Thomas)
 Temperance Hinton
 Charity Buchanan (Joseph)

Thomas Williams, Burwell's only son did not migrate, and perhaps not all the daus, but all these surnames appear in the 1830-1840 cen of Madison County.

In 1847, Thomas Springfield m (3) Mary Chandler in Madison Co Tn. After 1850, he sold his land and moved with his wf, Mary, to Hardeman Co where many of his family now lived.

I have not researched Mary Chandler Springfield's family since they had no ch. The Springfield Family Bible shows she was b 16 Mar 1803 and that she preceeded her hus in d 28 Jul 1865. Thomas d 18 Apr 1866 both in Hardeman Co. His obit appears later in this book.

Many Neely descendents now living (1975) have heard in detail the legendary stories of "Uncle Jeff" Neely, a colorful personality whose life spanned the eventful 19th century. One of these persons, a Memphis, Tennessee, "Neely", told us that her grandmother was the last member of the family to be buried in the T. J. Neely plantation graveyard; ground hallowed by Neely burials as early as the 1830's, the last burial being in June, 1920.

The plantation lands have long since passed into other hands. The spacious "mansion" with its wide entrance hall, twin staircases and balconied hall above, its sounds of voices of young and old, of aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, often calling it "home" for months or even years; these are no more. The house burned before the end of the century, so that no vestige is left to show its location. The long drive from the road to the stately balconied entrance was flanked on either side by tall cedars, standing sentinel lest harm might come to the dwellers within.

Similarly sentineled was the family graveyard nearby, enclosed as it was by cedars so close together that little light can now pierce their branches. Many other trees have, by this time, grown up within its borders, some sprouting in the very middle of graves. The dense shade has precluded the growth of grass and weeds, so that the myrtle, probably planted on each grave, has now made a complete ground-cover, spreading its green mantle over the lower part of the tombstones. The stones are in good condition. Two large and handsome marble slabs, beautifully carved, have been broken, obviously by large and heavy cedar branches that have fallen, victims of ice storms or winds of undue force.

"Now, where was the house?", and, "Where was the schoolhouse?" "The Neely Academy," it was called. A teacher was provided and all the cousins and neighborhood children were welcome. No tutors or governesses here. "Where were the smokehouses, the blacksmith shop, the shoemaker? The large quarters that housed the slaves? The stables? Doesn't anyone remember? Are there no tell-tale clues? It is all gone. But the people are remembered. And that is enough.

Thomas Jefferson Neely was a man of great charm and magnetism. I wish to incorporate into this story portions of several biographical sketches, most of them written while he was still alive; all having

vexing minor errors of detail concerning family relationships-names of brothers and sisters, etc.

One article written for the "Christian Advocate", 7 Sep 1897, by his son, Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely, tells of his early childhood, and his companionship with two of the great men of early Methodism in Tennessee-John B. McFerrin and Robert Paine, later Bishop Paine. He tells how "these three were reared together, went to the same school, professed religion about the same time, were ordained at the same time and on the long circuit rides they were often together. A horse, a pair of saddlebags, one change of clothing, a Bible and Hymnbook". His son continued, "He himself said he could not preach at the start, but he could talk to the people about sin and tell them of its cure. Like St. Paul, he had an experience and he loved to tell it. He had a melodious voice and he sang with the spirit. He had the gift of prayer that was extraordinary, accompanied by an overpowering unction which came down upon the people, causing them to pray, to weep and to shout. He found favor with God and man".

Much detail of Grandpa Neely's activities are given in ensuing accounts. He joined the Tennessee Conference in 1822, becoming a charter member of the Memphis Conference when it was organized in 1840. His preaching seems to have been on the emotional level of the evangelism of that day, as tho he lacked the power of concentration necessary for study and sermon preparation needed to minister to the same congregation consistently. The Rev. G. W. Wilson, in his obituary for the Methodist Conference Minutes, said, "He was not a great preacher, but a useful one", among many other remarks of a more complimentary nature.

My favorite account of his conversion experience is told in his own words, the Rev. J. B. Suttler, of Arkansas, recording it, under the following circumstances:

In January last, I had the pleasure of several conversations with the above named venerable minister, now the oldest member of the Memphis Conference, being in the 82d year of his age and a Methodist preacher for 62 or 63 years. I was much interested in these conversations and took notes of them at the time in order that something might be preserved of a life which runs back to the heroic age of Methodism, and whose clarion voice was awakening sinners throughout the wilds of Tennessee long before most of your readers were born. I give as nearly as possible in his own language a brief sketch of his life. (Note-errors reproduced intact; the word,

(sic) follows the error. G.P.R.).

"I was born in Williamson County, Tenn., on Leiper's Fork of West Harpeth, 23 Dec, 1803. I was the third son of Major James and Eleanor Neely. My father moved to Rutherford County, where I was principally raised. He was a fine fiddler and sent his children to dancing school to polish their manners. The neighborhood continued a real frolicking community until the great revival of 1820.

"There was a camp-meeting coming on at Norvall's Campground in Bedford County; my father looked upon such places as unfit for decent women, and considered the Methodists wild, fanatical people. Through great persuasion of my Mother, who was an Old-School Presbyterian, he allowed brother Franklin and sister Susan and me to go. All of us professed religion Saturday evening August 5th, 1820. Two hundred and fifty persons were converted at this meeting. My brother and sister joined the church of my Mother, but my heart was warmed toward the Methodists. I knew but little about them, and my mother's sister rebuked me for leaving the venerable church of my mother to consort with a wild fanatical sect that no lady could countenance. This confused me and I went to my mother and told her that Aunt Nancy desired me to join her church. My mother asked me where I could best enjoy religion and I at once answered, 'with the Methodists'. She told me to join the Methodists. I then joined a little class of six members at Alexander's Meeting House, on Stone's River where the terrible Battle was fought, in 1863.

"John Brookes was preacher in charge, and Joseph B. Winn, Junior Preacher. I was made Class Leader and at once appointed a prayer meeting at Col. Sam Hanna's house every Saturday night.

"From this little prayer-meeting a great revival broke out; great numbers were converted and our little class rose from six to seventy odd members that year.

"From holding these prayer-meetings I learned to talk in public, and the class recommended me to the District Conference held at Thomas Camp-ground in Williamson County. Thomas L. Douglas was P. E. The District Conference recommended me to Annual Conference for admission into the traveling connection. This was in 1822.

"I was appointed one of the Junior Preachers on the Nashville circuit. While I was on Nashville Circuit, brother Douglas divided the two six-

week circuits, Nashville and Lebanon, into three four-week circuits, and retained Finch P. Scruggs, as P. C. on Lebanon Circuit, with me as Junior Preacher. About this time, Brother Douglas said to me, 'Now, son, if you ever have to neglect Class-meeting or preaching, be certain to neglect the preaching'. While on this appointment, I was cured of the 'Big-head' for all time to come, and it happened this way:

"Dr. Figgers and wife joined the church as seekers, and I went to his house to preach. I did not know how to preach. I could tell my experience and that was about all. I told it this day very happily, and after dinner the Doctor and I took a walk, and he said to me, "Brother Neely, you preached the best sermon I ever heard." It nearly ruined me. I was fairly fit to burst with spiritual pride. For two weeks I could not preach or exhort at all, and fell into the depths of humiliation, thinking my usefulness was gone. But when I recovered the 'Big-head' was gone forever.

"When I entered the ministry, my father was much opposed to it, and thought himself disgraced but changed his mind before he died.

"My next appointment was to Sandy Circuit with Brother Scruggs as P. My Presbyterian Aunt at this offered to pay my expenses if I would locate and get a little education. This I agreed to do and located one year (1823) and went to Salem Academy (in Bedford County).

"In the fall of 1824...I was appointed P. C. of the Wayne Circuit... I received twenty dollars quarterage that year, and we had a grand time, and good revivals all over the circuit.

"Next year I went to Forked Deer Circuit, having as my colleague Thomas C. Garland, a brother of your distinguished Senator, A. N. Garland. We had thirty-one appointments to fill in eleven days...I received sixty dollars that year and thought I was doing finely. We had seven counties in the Circuit.

"Next year 1826 I was P. C. of Wolf River Circuit; a six-week circuit, an appointment on that circuit called Chickasaw Bluffs, a little village in the woods and had a frame shanty for a preaching place." Was this Memphis? I do not know.

"In the fall of 1828 I married Miss Sallie N. (sic) Putney, a daughter of Capt. Putney, of North Carolina. When I married, I located. I remained located for ten years, until 1838. I had by this marriage

one son, Dr. (sic) Richard J. Neely, who died from exposure during the War. Dr. Dixon C. McLeod persuaded me to rejoin the Conference..

"In 1840 I rode Trenton Circuit, and then for several years I was missionary to the colored, as I was a slaveholder and that was deemed prudent. I afterwards served various appointments as best I could, until eighteen years since, when I was superannuated and have since remained in that relation. I am now past 81 years of age; the evening of life is at hand; I am the last of my ancient comrades. Robert Paine, John Butcher, William McMahon, James Gwynne, Thomas L. Douglas, Thomas Smith. All have gone.

"I feel more indebted to Finch P. Scruggs for his loving kindness and services than to any other one man; he would go in advance and open up the way for me...

"P. P. Neely, a younger brother, whom I educated, proved a great power in the ministry, and I feel grateful at having been the humble instrument in starting out such a shining light.

"My great grandfather came from Ireland and settled in Botetourt County, Virginia. He had four sons: John, William, James and Robert. William was my grandfather and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. My father was a soldier in the War of 1812 and fought under Jackson at New Orleans. The original spelling of our name was Neelly, but P. P. Neely, Gen Neely and I dropped one 'l'."

"Now, reviewing my past history, there are two things I rejoice in; in my youth I was a strong man, but I never imposed on mortal man because I had the ability. Again, when I left my father's house, he said, 'Go in peace, but I do not care if I never see you again as you will be a disgrace to me', but in later years I had the pleasure of helping him educate his children, and of aiding in his support, and he died in the triumph of the faith, ascribing to me a part of the credit of bringing him to the Cross.

"I have no regrets for the past, except that I would like to have been more useful. With declining years religion grows brighter and more comforting. My colleagues and compatriots of younger days are all gone and I am somewhat like an old superannuated horse turned out to grass.

"No doubt the younger generation look upon me, an old, worn-out hulk, who, having lived out his days of usefulness, is by some mysterious dispensation of Providence spared to grumble at the degeneracy of modern days. But I believe things must be right or God would not allow them, and for myself, I can say, 'All is well, all is well'." From Ark. Christian Advocate, 1885.

Thomas Jefferson Neely, third son of Major James and Eleanor Phillips Neelly, b 23 Dec 1803, Williamson Co. Tn. More of his early years is given in Reminiscences that will follow, as will his experiences in the ministry of the Methodist Church.

He m Miss Sarah Richard Putney in Fayette Co. Tn. 28 Oct 1828. Sarah was b 26 Apr 1812 in Halifax Co. N. C., dau of Capt. Richard Putney, Capt. Putney was in Halifax Dist. Northampton Co. N. C. before 1790. In the 1800 Cen he is under 45 yrs old; has a large family and seventeen slaves. In 1816 he was postmaster, the tiny P. O. being in Putney's General Store. He and his wf must have d, leaving a large estate, since the two youngest sons came to Tn in the mid-twenties, bringing their families and the young sister, Sally, and their slaves to the newly settled Western Dist.

A handsome, charming, affable and very religious young man of the Methodist Church had just been appointed P. C. (Preacher in Charge) of the Wolf R. Circuit, a six weeks Circuit, which included all the Southwest Tn area. Thomas, now age 24, fell in love with 16 yr-old Sallie and they were "m in the fall of 1828", he recalls many years later.

Methodist Circuit Riders made almost no money. A horse, a Bible, a change of clothes and love of God. They depended on grateful, good people for their board and keep, and they were never disappointed - or hungry. Thomas "located" that year and took charge of his young wf's affairs.

On 14 Aug the next yr, 1829, their son was b. He was named Richard James (for both grfas) and called James, I believe. Belle Neely Renshaw, his sister 27 yrs younger, called him "Brother Jim". Sarah is 17. Time is ticking away for her. In less than a yr, 27 Jul 1830, Sarah died.

FAMILY RECORD.

Sarah Richard Kelly
 Born April 28
 1812: & departed this
 life July 27. 1830

Eleanor Phillips
 Born February the
 10. 1782
 Married to May
 James Kelly
 April the 21. 1797.

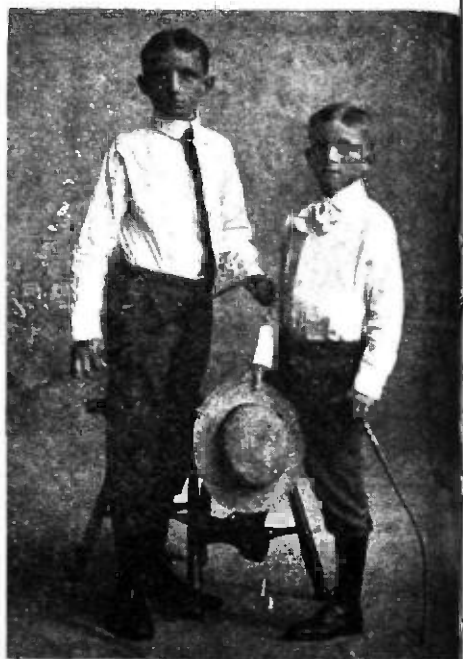
Marriage record from T. J. Neely Bible. The only documentary record of marriage of Jas. F. & Eleanor P. Neelly, since the minister failed to return their marriage license to the court clerk, Davidson County, Tennessee.

Eleanor (Ellen) E. Neely
 Third wife of Nathan Johnson
 Denton County, Texas

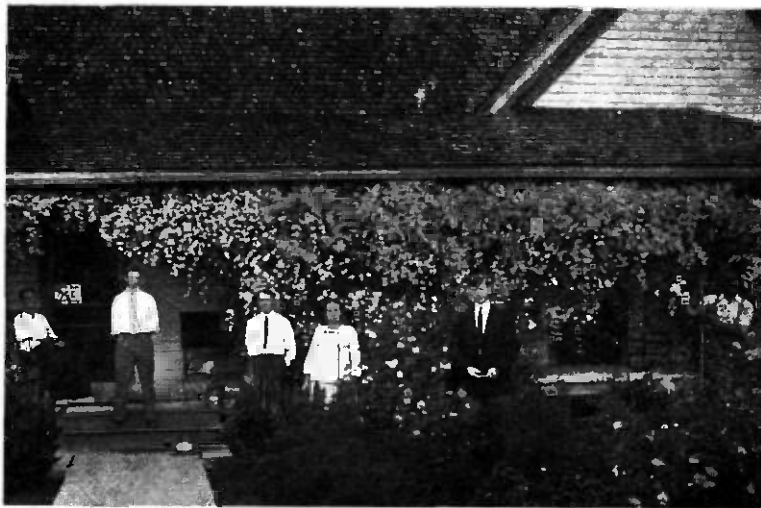




Belle Neely Renshaw (left) and Helen Neely Boone.
Denton, Texas, 1926.



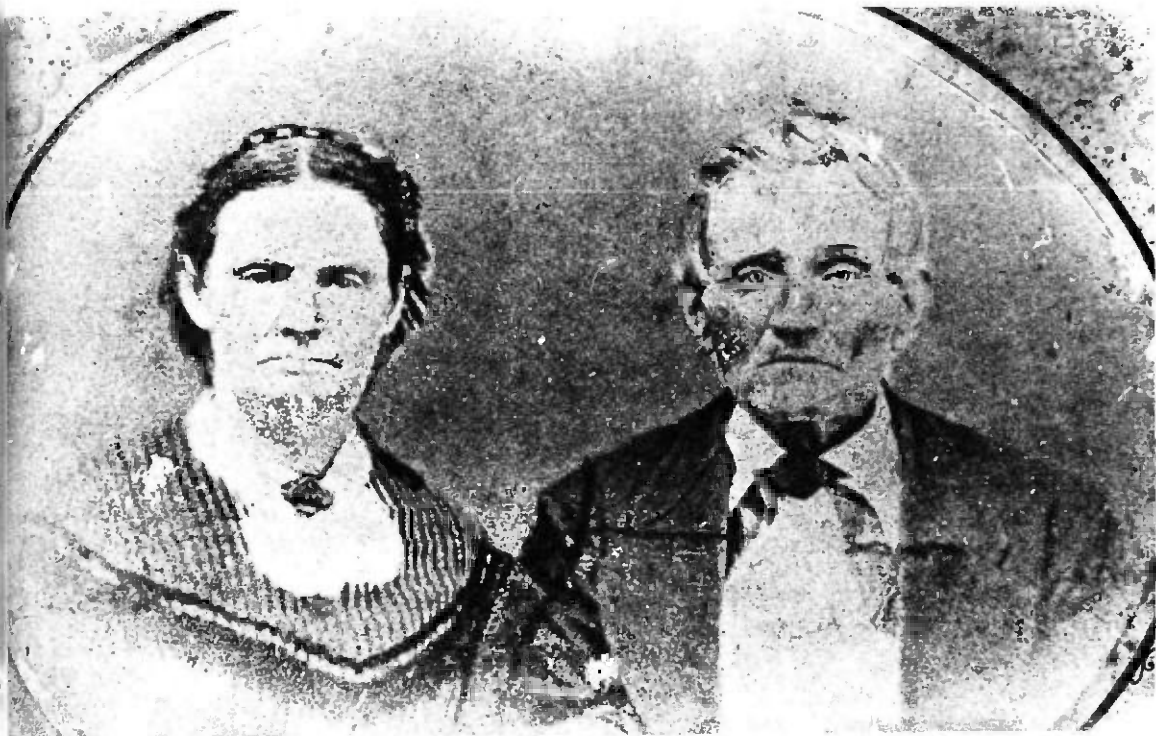
Anderson Neely Renshaw (left) and
George Andrew Renshaw. ca 1900



Left to right: "Aunt Tish" - Letitia Catherine Neely Wilkerson,
two of their "guests" (young gentlemen boarders), Sally
Wilkerson, daughter of Aunt Tish, another "guest" and the
beloved black servant; hoe in hand; he was very much a part of
the family.



J.A.S. (Bishop Neely)
children: Ed, Allie Rhea, Will
and Henry. Wife, Belle had
died. Denton, Texas, taken ca
1885.



REV. T.J. AND CHARITY S. NEELY



REV. T.J. NEELY



FREDERICK C. NEELY



DR. WM. S. NEELY



HELEN NEELY BOONE



SUE HOLLAND NEELY & "FED"



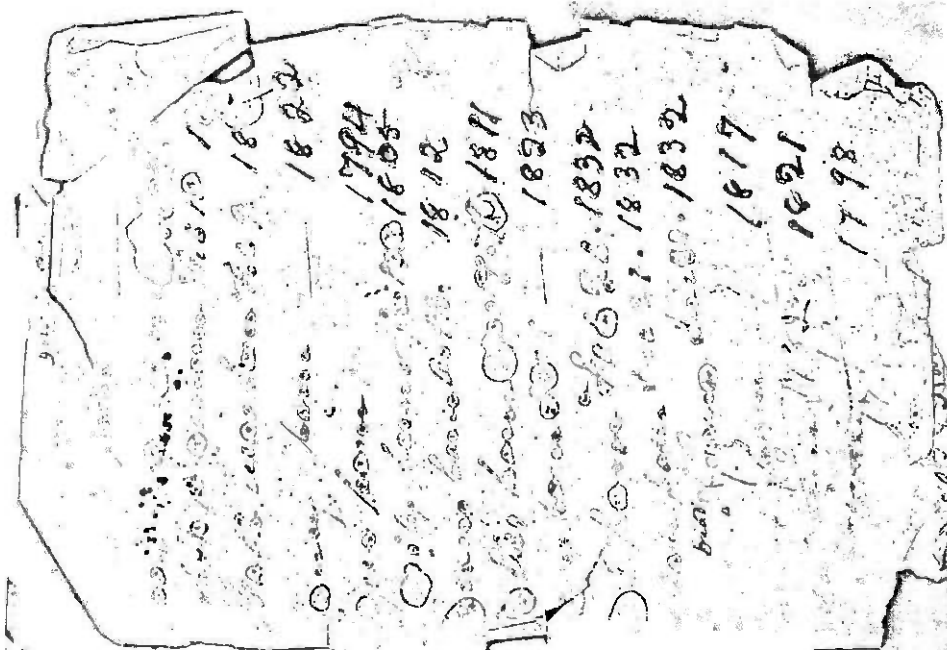
Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely

Born
Dec. 23, 1803
Died
Aug. 11, 1890

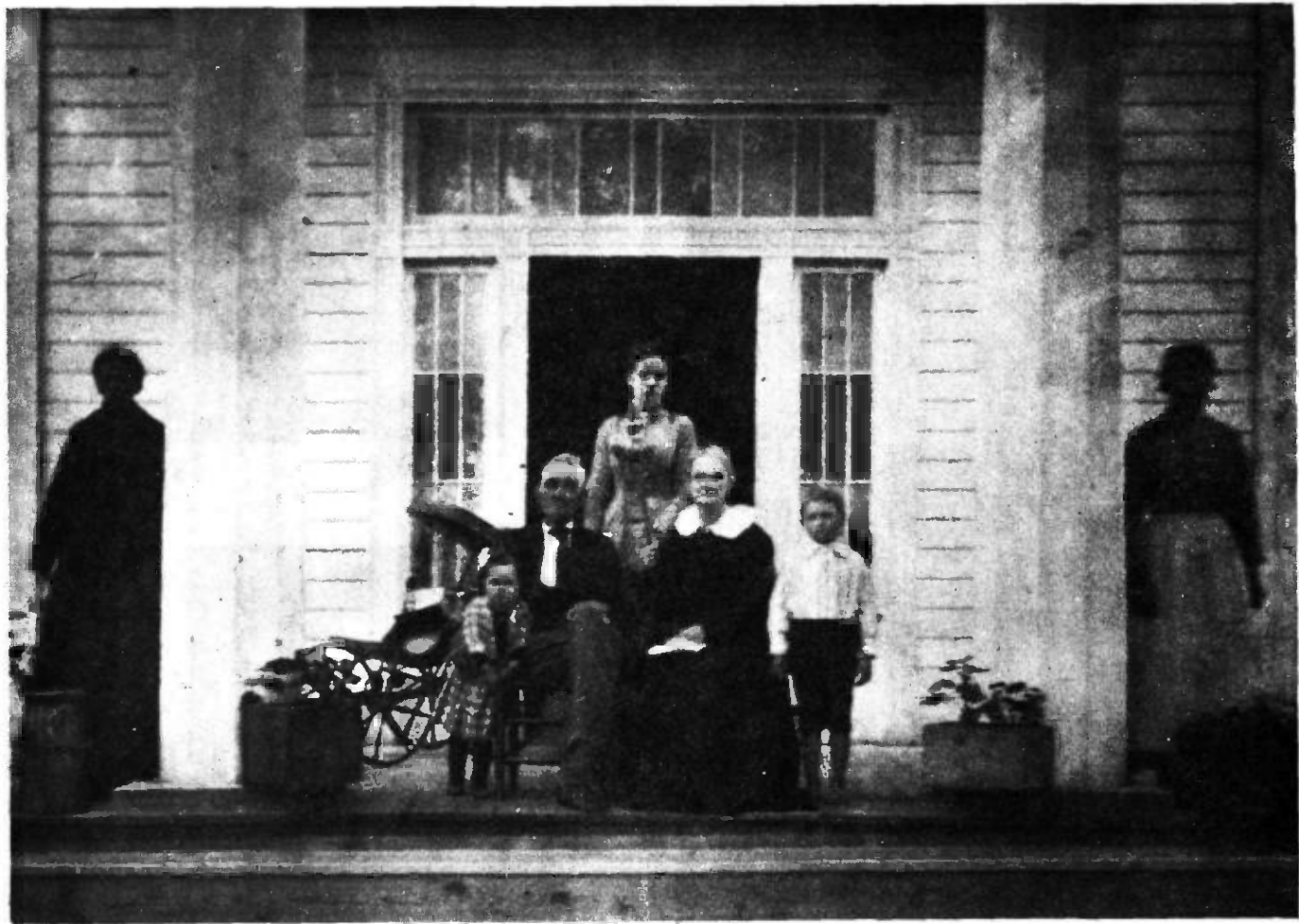


Major James Neelly

Born
Dec. 24, 1773
Died
April 15, 1842
Age 68 yrs., 3 mos. and 22 days.



One of four pages of births of family slaves in the Family Bible Record of the T.J. Neely. Birth dates range from 1794 to 1865.



Plantation home of Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely, near Whiteville, Tn. "Grandpa" Neely and wife Charity Springfield Neely, Daughter, Jennie Helen Neely Boone and her two children: John Frederick Alonzo Boone and Susie Belle Boone.

The Fayette Co Ct. appointed Thomas guardian of his son, who had, of course, inherited his mor's fortune. Thomas continued to 'locate' from yr to yr, maintaining his connection with the Conference in that status, continuing to fill vacant pulpits, conduct revivals, then more likely to be called Camp-Meetin's or Protracted Meetin's, both expressions being self-explanatory, I think.

The wf of David Putney, Sarah's brother, d also, leaving several ch. He m. again, had more ch, and in 1847, he d, leaving eight ch. Then, in 1850, Elizabeth, the 2/w d, leaving the ch orphaned. I believe this family had "consumption", as T. B. was called at that time. It was believed to be "inherited" as the tendency probably is but they had no idea of its contagious or infectious properties, so no preventive efforts were made. The other bro, John Bell Putney cared for the orphans who were wealthy ch.

Ch of Thomas J. and Sarah Putney Neely:

1. Richard James Neely b 14 Aug 1829, Fayette Co. Tn. d 30 May 1862 (Civil War) Hardeman Co. Tn. m Mary E. Hull, dau D. C. Hull, Hardeman Co. 28 Apr 1851. She was b 1836 and was living in 1916 when she applied for a Conf. widow's pension. Issue:

- a. Thomas J. Neely b 1852 d chood.
- b. Richard Edwin Neely b 12 Jun 1853 d 28 Feb 1856.
- c. D inf.
- d. D inf.
- e. D inf.
- f. Jimmy Neely, dau, b ca 1862, Hardeman Co. In boarding school 1880 Census. m R. H. Futrell 4 Nov. 1885 at Whiteville Meth. Ch., her gr-fa, Rev. T. J. Neely, officiating. d Oct. 1889, leaving her mor with "no family at all", as she said in her pension application.

Since I believe that Richard's mor left a large estate, I am not surprised that in January, 1852 his fa deeded to him 409 a of land and Negroes: Aunt Sara, Jake, Lina, Sophia, her two ch, and William. Fayette Co. Minute Bk 'E' p. 33 shows that his fa was made his legal guardian 9 Apr 1831. The 1850 Cen lists him as a prosperous young farmer, 21 yrs., with land valued at \$3,000, which wasn't bad 125 years ago!

To the question on her application for Widow's Pension in 1916, of the number of ch and their present ages, Mary E. Neely answered, "six. All dead. D. in ch except one girl and she d Oct 1889". "I have no one at all." She received the pension, I am glad to say, in her eightieth year, and although she had no family, she did have a friend, Mrs. Mary Harris, with whom she lived.

Thomas Jefferson Neely m 27 Jan 1831, 2/wf Miss Allie Murphy Collins b 13 Feb 1804. d 8 Apr 1839, in Hardeman Co. Tn., when her husband had begun to accumulate the acreage that was to comprise his large Plantation. I have not examined the records in Fayette Co. that would indicate their activities and land acquisitions there, but before her d they had certainly come to Hardeman Co. She is bur in the family cem, the beautiful stone still in fine condition. Issue:

2. Sarah Elizabeth Neely b 15 Nov 1831 (named for the first wife, a common custom) d 1 Aug 1832.
3. Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely, b 10 Mar 1833 d 23 July 1899 in Whitesboro, Tex., was perhaps the most gifted and useful of Grandpa Neely's children. (Bur. Denton, Texas) First, his name...his elder brother was given the names of his parents' fathers, Richard James, since this custom was seldom disregarded. Succeeding sons were given names of the father's brothers, resulting in the confusing situation of five or more "given" names being used in large family connections of the same surname. In the Neely family we find John, Samuel, William, Robert, Andrew, James. Biblical names had been a "fad" in the late 1700's, followed by full names of American patriots after the Revolution, these names also being passed on in the traditional manner. In this case, Thomas, the father's name was given to the second son. To this is added, "Jonathan Burford". We find Dr. Jonathan Burford to be a young doctor of fine connections who must have been a close friend of T. J. Neely at the time his second wife's children were born. In the 1850 Census we find "Mary Burford, age 29; son, Jonathon, age 14." Her occupation, "farming". Obviously, she is a widow. Dr. Burford's life was short, but that of his Neely namesake was longer and equally creditable. Thomas J. Neely began life as a well-to-do-man. He was given a tract of land containing 234 a and fifteen slaves by his father in January, 1856. Three years later he married: Miss Mary Baird, of New Castle, Tn. (on Fayette Co. line). She was "a pious, cultured lady" (according to the writer of his obit many years later) daughter of Charles and

Nancy Baird, both b. North Carolina. Mary "died within the year", according to the obit writer. During that year, the couple moved with others of Mary's family to Dallas County, Arkansas, where many Neelys and some of the Baird family had already migrated. The 1860 Census, Dallas Co., Ark., showed his land valued at \$5,200 and personal (slaves) at \$1,500. Thomas must have spent some of this decade in Missouri (St. Louis) engaged in writing. When the war was over and the slaves freed, he probably had no desire to engage actively in farming. In 1866, he sold his Hardeman County land to his half-brother, Philip Joseph Neely, and in 1870 he m Miss Augusta Mense, in St. Louis, dau of John F. Mense. Thomas brought his bride to Hardeman County, where he engaged in the Mercantile business with Philip Joseph, (who had married his second wife, Virginia Bagley). I do not know how long this couple remained in the little village of Whiteville. We find them back in St. Louis in 1876, when on March 24 of that year "Gussey" Neely died, leaving a daughter, Allie Augusta, born while they were still in Whiteville. This daughter was living in St. Louis 23 years later when her father died in Whitesboro, Texas. Does she have descendents? On 23 June, 1881, Thomas was united in marriage to Miss Harriet V. Hart, of Greenfield, Illinois, "whose culture and fervent Christian life were in complete harmony with his ideals and who survives to deeply mourn the loss of a tender and considerate husband", quoting again his obit writer, who signed the Article simply, "A Friend". Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely was buried with "full Masonic honors" July 25, 1899, in Denton, Texas. At his death, Thomas was in possession of the Family Bible Records of John F. Mense. This Record is being preserved by members of the Neely Family in Denton, Texas, having hopes that they may be returned to descendents of Allie Augusta Neely or others of the Mense family.

4. Eleanor Grizzly Neely b 8 Apr 1836, d 17 Apr 1838. The puzzling middle name copied from the original Bible record.
5. Allie Murphy Collins Neely b 8 Apr 1839 d 23 Jun 1839, her mor having d at her birth.

T. J. Neely m (3) Charity Springfield (b 23 Apr 1818, Chatham Co (N. C.) 30 Jan 1840, Madison Co. Tn. Charity d 4 Aug 1899. The Rev T. J. and Charity Neely were the parents of Belle Neely Renshaw, "Grandma Renshaw" to my children. Thomas J. Neely had 'located' (obtained a leave from assigned appointments in the Methodist Conference) after his first m and 'remained local', as

he expressed it, for the next ten years. At Conference, which met in Huntsville (Ala) in the fall of 1838, he was appointed to the Hatch (R.) Circuit. He 'rode the Trenton Circuit' the next year.

In the 1840 Cen we first learn of the close association of Thomas and his brother Robert. Robert is apparently managing their financial affairs while Thomas is away on his Circuit. Robert P. Neely is listed as Head of the House. No other names are given; only age categories. By ages, the family consists another M-40 (Thomas J.), four boys and two girls, two boys and the girls belong to Robert and Mary, the other two boys are Richard James and Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely. The two adult F are Robert's wf Mary, and the new bride who had come into the family in January of that year. They have 28 slaves, so they must have a big farming operation going already for slaves were not kept in order that grgrch could boast of their wealth for a century later, as many did after the change in economic structure of the South had reduced to poverty those who could not adjust.

For the next few years Thomas was a missionary to "the colored people, as I was a slaveholder and that was deemed prudent." The Methodist Church was already torn apart by the slavery question and in 1844 made official the Division that lasted for almost a century.

Robert P. Neely was to die before the next Cen taker made his call. I have told in his story of the close ties between the brothers and of the care that Thomas gave to his brother's widow and her family. One of Robert's descendents had told me of the wealthy Uncle who had built her grmor a home beside the large plantation home so that he could help her rear her five sons; a story that I heard a number of times before I met my favorite Neely, with whom I set up Housekeeping soon after the First W. W.

Thomas J. Neely d one year before my husband was b, but my husband remembered Grmor Charity Springfield Neely since he was eight when she d. She was a reserved and dignified lady, haughty in some ways, but he remembered best the occasion when he had broken a bone in his arm and no doctor was available. She set it and applied splints. The recollection centered on her gentleness and her concern that she might cause him undue pain. He had loved her very much. Charity had thirteen ch. You will notice that I am numbering as one group of Thomas J. Neely ch:

6. Philip Joseph (named for T. J.'s grandfather, Philip Phillips,

and his Uncle Joseph Phillips) was b 23 Nov 1843, grew up in the atmosphere of a large plantation where there was at once the bustling, busy activity of many workers combining their efforts to provide practically every need of the plantation community, and the leisurely, rhythmic modes and methods that lent themselves to resistance to hot, humid summers and short but chilly, damp winters. Whether he chose to go beyond the schooling given to all the children at "Neely Academy", the schoolhouse on the plantation, I do not know, but he was reared in an atmosphere of culture and learning.

On 22 Dec 1859, just a month after his eighteen birthday, Philip m Malvina J. Smith, age 20. (There is no record that his fa gave him any land). In the Cen the next year (1860), a 10-yr old girl, F. B. Cook, was a member of the household. In Aug, 1866, a year after the War was over, Philip purchased 180 a of the 234 a that his fa had given his brother, T.J.B. Neely. I do not know whether Malvina was living at that time, she may have died in that year. I believe they had no ch.

In Dec. 1868, Philip m Virginia Bagley, age 22. In 1869, he sold his farm and is living in Whiteville, I believe. At any rate, their home is next to the residence of Brother, T.J.B. and his young wf, Augusta Mense Neely, in the 1870 Census.

These brothers are now operating a "general" store, classified as "merchants" in the 1870 Cen. It is doubtful if either of these men was fitted for this kind of business; certainly Thomas was not and we find him soon back at his writing, in which he was quite successful.

Philip and Virginia were m by the Rev. W. M. Norment, the beloved Cumberland Presbyterian minister who was a dear friend of the Neely family. They had one ch, just a few months old when the Cen was taken in 1870. Only the initials are given, C. B. Neely, a girl, I believe. We are thankful for the cen taker, but frustrated when he fails to give sufficient information.

Dora Bagley, age 16, undoubtedly Virginia's sister, is in the H. H. probably for the convenience of the "city" school. I have little information concerning the families of Philips wives. The 1880 cen shows that Virginia was b in Tenn, while her fa was b N. C. and her mor in Va.

There was a sense in which their world; certainly their way of life had vanished-swiftly and inexorably-before their eyes. An era had ended and there was no clear way ahead. Some men stood taller because of the challenge. Some were crushed by its weight. And some went West.

In 1871, Philip sold his house in Whiteville to his widowed sister-in-law, Mary E. Hull Neely, who lived there for many years and reared her dau, Jimmy, there.

Did Philip leave familiar surroundings and follow others of the family? I noticed that Charity's obit had these words, "the last few years she made her home with her ch in Arkansas, Texas and Tennessee. Arkansas? Yes, I remembered that her WILL was made in Wheatly, Ark (St. Francis Co). A look at the 1880 cen of that County showed they were there and Philip was the cen taker! An old family custom, it seems.

Philip is now 39, Virginia, 34. Little C. B. is not listed. She would be 10. But a son, Philip, age 7, is listed. He was b in Tn., so they moved after 1873.

Virginia's bro, James Bagley, 31, with wf and ch was living near them. He was listed as a laborer, but was "in school", perhaps under the tutelage of the local doctor or lawyer.

The writer of Charity's obit also says, "Philip d since his mother passed away". Philip d in Aug. 1899.

7. Susan Ann Mary, dau of Rev. Thomas J. and Charity Springfield Neely b 23 Nov 1842 m John Knox Holland 30 Jan 1868, the Rev. J. W. Boswell officiating.

If Susan's parents had known they were to have (to name six more daus, they might have been more sparing of the choice family names. Susan and Mary for James and Eleanor's mors, and Ann for T. J. Neely's aunt Ann Hardeman. Quite a legacy for the little girl.

In 1871 Susan's fa gave this couple 149 a of land, "range 4, sec 5, 10th surveyors Dist.", perhaps hoping that this gift would be an incentive for them to stay nearby when so many were talking of going to Texas, or had already gone.

However, we find them in the 1880 Denton Co. Tex. Cen in Dist 3, not far from the Nathan Johnsons and the Bishop Neelys (whom we have not yet met).

John is "clerking" in a drugstore; they have no ch. Two servants,

A. Curley, housekeeper F age 19, and
Fousie Skaggs, M age 7, in school. Both black, of course.

Susan had a namesake in the Bishop Neely family, Annie Holland Neely
b 29 Dec 1882, d 9 Sep 1883. Thomas J. B. Neely, Susan's older
brother must have been living in Denton at the time, for he wrote
a touching obit in which he indicated that the child, who had
"Whooping Cough", an often fatal disease at that time, was in the
care of the Hollands at her death. I later learned her mor had d.
several months before.

Little Annie did not "Make" the Census, so this is our only record
of her short life. Thanks, T.J.B.

Susan Ann Mary (Sue) Neely Holland d 13 Feb 1920; her husband, John
K. Holland, was b 1 Feb 1840 and d 23 May 1908 Denton, Tx.

8. Temperance Alice Neely was named for her Aunt Temple Springfield,
Charity's sister. In the Neely Family Bible Record, a first name,
beginning with 'L' has been thoroughly marked out, leaving only
one name, 'Temperance'. However, in a copy of the Record that was
handed down to us by Belle Neely Renshaw, the name is 'Temperance Alice'.
Her mother used Temperance A. in her will. Temperance was b 19 Feb
1844, d 1929; m 5 Oct 1865 Lundy R. Irby b 11 Apr 1837, Fayette Co.
Tn., served in Confederate Army. His brother, Capt. Henry C. Irby
was a well-known educator and was co-founder of McKenzie College,
a Methodist school of higher education. Since this school was not
in operation before Tempie married, she could not have attended it
as did her younger sisters. I do not know where Susan and Tempie
went, but "Boarding School" was a 'must' for young ladies of that day.

These two brothers were the sons of Henry Irby who had come from S. C.
before 1836, when his name appears on a tax list in Fayette Co. Tn.

William and Henry are favorite names in the Irby family. This branch
is probably descended from Dr. Wm. Irby, who was in Charles City Co.
Va. before 1677. (Ct. Min. page 232 and others.)

Ch of Lundy and Tempie Irby, all b Hardeman Co Tn. were:

a. William (Willie) Irby, b ca 1866 d 1870;

b. Thomas Henry Irby (obviously named for both grf's) b 9 Jul 1868; d 1939 Fulton Ky. Bur in Melrose cem. m in 1894 Miss Viara Stuart. Tom had a Drugstore in Fulton, Ky., in partnership with his brother Guy, and was a prominent citizen there. Issue:

1. Floyd Irby, b Fulton Ky m Ruth Patrick, he d in Shawnee, Okla;

2. Rochelle Irby b Fulton Ky living in Calif.

c. Ola Grey Irby b 21 Jul 1872 d 28 Jan 1861 m 1896 Nock Johnson Seddens b 19 May 1863 McNairy Co Tn son of William Henry Seddens 1833-1914 and Azenith Brazil Seddens 1832-1916, William Henry Seddens' fa was Marshall Seddens of McNairy Co Tn, bur there, his surviving wf bur Hardeman Co Tn. I remember Aunt Temple and Cousin Ola. During the 1920's, Anderson and I took his mor, Belle Neely Renshaw, to Whiteville to visit Aunt Temple and "Aunt" Sallie Wilkerson, who was really Anderson's first cousin but had always been called "Aunt" since she was much older. It was always fun visiting the Neelys. They were bright, talkative people, euphonic with expressions learned in childhood when their lives had been so closely tied to loving blacks who had nourished them, admonished them and generally kept them in line. It was probably the last time the two sisters were to see each other. Ch of Ola and N. J. Seddens:

1. Leo Seddens b 21 Feb 1898, lives Davenport, Iowa. A career merchandising man in Men's Wear. With Marshall Fields' for many years. m 1921 Lurline DeShong, div. Issue: dau Peggey Jean Seddens Kura, b June 1923.

2. Gladys Seddens b 30 Dec 1900 d 6 Jun 1972 m Robert A. Freeland b 15 Sep 1898 d 14 Jan 1968. I recall that Gladys was living at Fayette Corners, a Fayette Co. community where the Freelands were a prominent family.

a. Robert D. Freeland, b 28 Nov 1919 m Helen Vaughn 1 July 1945; dau Bette Randell, b 1 Apr 1947. I believe Robert Freeland is affectionately called "Jack" by friends and acquaintances in the Whiteville community where he is a prominent business man and planter.

I have had to presume a bit about "Jack". He was kind enough to respond to my request for more information about this branch of

the family, but he did not tell me very much about himself.

- b. Lurline Freeland b 16 Aug 1922, Whiteville, Tn.
m Luke E. Burch, Jr. 27 Mar 1943. They live in
Ark and have two ch: Robert Eugene Burch and
Lan Freeland Burch.

3. Inf son bur Union Cem "by Rev. D. M. Melver 10
a.m. Thursday"

Again, I thank Mr. Freeland for his kind response to my requests for help in recording more fully the family of Lundy R. and Temperance Neely Irby.

Three generations, Lundy and Tempie Irby, N. K. and Ola Seddens, Robert A. and Gladys Freeland, are bur in beautiful Melrose cem, Whiteville, joining many others who have made this a hallowed spot for the Neely family.

- d. Guy Floyd Irby, 4th ch of Lundy R. and Tempie N. Irby
b ca 1874. A partner with his brother, Tom in drugstore
in Fulton, Ky. Is bur there. unm.

9. Jefferson Andrew Soule Neely, second son of T. J. and Charity S. Neely, b 18 Aug 1846, Hardeman Co. Tn. This is "Uncle Bishop". He had a very distinguished name, First, "Jefferson", for his fa whose first name, Thomas, had been given to the second son, Thomas Jonathan Burford Neely. The other names, Andrew and Soule, were the surnames of two greatly beloved Bishops of the M. E. Church, South. Bishops of the Church were men of deep piety and virtue and were justifiably revered by the Church constituency. When a Methodist preacher was congratulated upon the birth of a son, some mention was often made of his being a prospective "Bishop" of the next generation, regardless of the child's name. So it was inevitable that this child, named for two of these godly men, should be called, "Bishop", but it was unusual and a quirk of circumstance, I suppose, that this name should remain with him through life, sometimes appearing on legal documents. Occasionally the initials, "J. A." were used and at other times all three, "J.A.S. Neely", which caused me some confusion since I had known him only as "Uncle Bishop" when I began this narrative. I saw him only once; he visited us in Memphis ca 1924; a "typical Neely", full of talk; enjoying life. I'm sorry I couldn't have known him better. Bishop was 19 yrs old when the War was over in

the spring of 1865. The slaves were officially freed at that time and plantation owners were left with operations requiring the labor of many strong workers; men to plow and plant and women and children to "chop" and pick the hundreds of acres of cotton. The farmer's children had never participated in this work and were not prepared emotionally or physically to replace the negroes who were given a bit of money and their meager belongings to wander away in search of that magic called "Freedom".

In many ways life went on as usual, of course. Bishop's sister, Temple, had m Lundy Robert Irby in the Fall of 1865. And hereby hangs another romance. You see, Lundy had a pretty little sister named (according to the 1850 cen of Fayette Co) Arabella and called 'Belle', b 31 Jul 1846 Fayette Co Tn, who m Jefferson A. S. (Bishop) Neely 23 Dec 1868 in Fayette Co. The next yr Bishop's fa gave the young couple a tract of land. In the 1870 cen we find:

Jeff A. S. Neely, age 23 farmer, land \$3500, per prop. \$1500,
Belle Neely, age 24
Richard Edwin Neely, age 4 months.

Bishop's half-bro, Richard James Neely, died in the War, leaving no living sons, so Bishop names his first son for Brother Jim's second child, Richard Edwin, who was b 1853 and d 1856; three short years, but his name is carried on. (Bishop also served, taking Gambo as his body servant).

Although Bishop was farming, he was living in Whiteville, Brother Philip on one side and Brother Jonathan on the other. Several doors down was a young bachelor, T. O. Wilkerson, age 25, a druggist, who was to marry a Neely daughter. But that will be told later. Ten years later the three brothers have gone; Philip to Arkansas, Jonathan, a journalist, has left the rural town for larger cities. Bishop remained for several years, moving to Denton Co. Tx in 1878. A word here concerning Bishop's wife's name. The Fayette Co. 1850 cen was carelessly done, and full of errors. Belle Irby was four yrs old. Her name is given, "Arabella", which I accepted and recorded. Helen Hardin has it, "Ada Belle", and I feel that she is right, but am giving it both ways for the benefit of anyone who might look in the cen for it. She was always, "Belle", which was a very popular name at that time. Ch of J.A.S. and Belle Neely (b 1846 Fayette Co Tn d 18 Jan 1883 Denton, Tx) were:

- a. Richard Edwin (called "Ed") b June 1870, Hardeman Co. Tn d 8 Feb 1939 unnm Denton Co. Tx.

- b. William E. Neely b 1873 Hardeman Co Tn m Faye Barb Denton, Tx d Lewisville Tx. Issue:

1. Edwin Neely killed in car accident.
2. William Neely, living in Dallas (1976).
3. Sidney Neely, living in Dallas.

- c. Henry J. Neely b 1874 Hardeman Co Tn. d 1913 Denton Tx. unm

- d. Allie Rhea Neely b 7 Feb 1875 Hardeman Co. Tn d Denton Tx 3 Sep 1968. m Claude B. Grant 1873-1932 Issue:

1. Claude B. Grant, Jr. b 12 May 1899 d 5 May 1972, Denton, Tx. was a Lieutenant, U.S. Navy W. W. II m Naomi Haren. nc

2. Henry A. Grant 1904-1906

3. Virginia Grant 1908-1909

4. Irby Neely Grant b 13 Nov 1910, Denton, Tx. m Lilla Virginia Harrison 13 Aug 1938 nc. I was able to make contact with the wonderful Texas cousins with only the

name and address of Irby's beloved mor whom Anderson and I had the pleasure of meeting only once when she passed through Memphis on a trip with some of her family. She had been dec for several years when I sent a letter to the family at her address and it was delivered to Irby, much to my good fortune.

- e. Annie Holland Neely b 29 Dec 1882, d 9 Sep 1883, of whooping cough, a disease often fatal at that time.

Born after the 1880 Census, she might have been lost

to us but for the beautiful obit written by her Uncle Thomas J. B. Neely who must have been living in Denton at that time. It is included at the end of this little work, a tribute to her and to all the little ones of this family who may not have "made the Census", but who gave joy to those whose lives were touched by their short span of life.

A clipping from the Denton newspaper makes the following announcement; "In the Methodist Church, South, Denton, Dec. 23, 1887, at 8 p.m. were married by the Rev. Riddle, Mr. Bishop Neely, late of Tennessee and

Mrs. Julia Douglass, late of Alabama.

"The ceremony was beautiful and well conducted by the pastor. The bride and groom were unattended and seemed the picture of happiness. A gallant soldier has won another victory. After the ceremony a few of the immense audience repaired to the residence of the bride, where a most elegant supper was served. The following presents were noted:

A handsome swing lamp and China Teaset by faculty of Denton City School;

Set of silver spoons and silver holder by A. E. Freeman and Albert Daily;

China Teaset, E. L. Fritzler;

Card receiver, G. W. Cleveland, of Dallas;

Handsome silver butter dish, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Conwell;

Silver Castor, Mrs. T. J. Douglass;

Carving set, W. H. Benners;

Silver Napkin Rings, Mrs. J. K. Holland;

Handpainted Placque, Miss Lou Hann;

Pannel of Mareshal Niel roses, Miss Edna Scruggs;

Berry Bowl, Mrs. J. W. Scruggs;

Handpainted Kerchief Case, Miss Gazette Delony, of Alabama;

One dozen plates, Ad. Edgley;

China Set, Mrs. T. J. Jones, of Alabama;

Set of Furniture, Mr. Bishop Neely.

The bride and groom were serenaded after twelve o'clock by a band from Dallas which continued to discourse sweet music til the groom appeared to respond to the "after toasts". (From Charity Neely's Scrapbook).

Bishop and his 2/wf, Julia A., who was then a teacher in the Denton City School, had two sons:

f. Fred Neely (Fed) 1888-1903 was drowned when on an overnight camping trip, at age 15.

g. G. Holland Neely b 13 Nov 1890 Denton Tx. m Thelma Galloway Sept 1950. nc. One of two living grch of Rev. T. J. Neely (b 1803), Holland Neely lives in Dallas. The other living grch is Belle Renshaw's dau, Helen R. Morris who lives in Paris, Tn. Helen Wright Hardin, who has been a great help with the Texas branches of the family, gave me the following information: Mrs. Julia A. Douglas, Bishop's 2/wf, was b 2 Sep 1847, Aiken S.C., Julia Amelia Nail, dau of John Alfred Nail of S.C. and Frances Olivia Jones, b Va. Julia d 31 Dec 1920 after a tragic bout with cancer of the face. It was just a few years after her death that Uncle Bishop visited us. I remember distinctly only one thing he said, "I have had two of the finest wives..." the remark 'threw me'. During my lifetime, the span of life had extended considerably and I knew very few people who had lost a spouse and re-married. So the remark about two wives in the same breath was not readily forgotten. (Julia had son, John Douglas, by her first husband.)

10. Robert Blount Neely, named for his fa's brother, Robert, and his mor's brother was not destined to do honor to his proud name. He was b 10 Mar 1848 and d 16 Aug of the same yr. We found no marker for his little grave, nor did we for the three little daus of Thomas J. and Allie M. Collins Neely, but I am sure they were there, and buried beneath the heavy carpet of myrtle which I have described.

11. William Summerfield Neely, M. D. was b 2 Oct 1849, d 21 Dec 1878. The Rev. W. M. Norment, writes; "In early life he gave evidence of a thirst for knowledge and seemed to adopt that noble Motto, 'Excelsior'. We mention M. E. W. Price as one of his instructors, to whom he was strongly attached. For some time while at school, he was a member of our family, to whom he greatly endeared himself by his many manly virtues. He entered Andrew College at Trenton, Tennessee, then under the presidency of the Rev. S. W. Moore, D. D., but ere he had finished he returned hom to assist his brother, Andrew S. Neely on the family farm, his health impaired by study.

"Regaining his health, and having chosen his profession, he commenced the study of medicine under the tutorship of Dr. J. S. Robertson. Dr.

Neely received his diploma from Bellevue School of Medicine, New York, in 1873 and on the first of Dec of that year was married to Miss Adelaide Bray, dau of J. H. Bray, a neighboring planter, and his wf, Ethel S. Bray. He began at once the practice of medicine in Whiteville in the midst of those with whom he had been reared. His success soon evidenced the fact that he was well qualified for a high and honorable place in his profession, and by his gentlemanly conduct and professional courtesy he won and held the respect of his co-laborers in this useful calling.

"His ambition, as he said to his heartbroken wife just before his death, was to make a name in his profession and to take care of her and their small children, William Summerfield, Jr., and Ethel Neely. But those hopes, seemingly so certain of attainment were all blasted by that sad sad event that cast a deep shadow of gloom over the entire community.

"In early life he had professed religion, but, alas! like too many, he had wandered away from the path of duty, although on several occasions more recently he gave evidence that his mind and heart were impressed with the importance of personal piety. And in the midst of great bodily suffering the night and morning before his death his thoughts turned to the vast future as the prayers offered around the family altar and also going up from his agonized, aged father arose as incense before God, the son was enabled to trust, and trusting, to realize the efficacy of the blood that cleanseth from all sin. To his wife, and sister present, and the writer, he said, 'I am trusting, I am trusting', requesting us to sing, 'I am coming to the Cross, poor and weak and blind; I am trusting, Lord, in thee. Save me, Jesus, save me now'.

"The father was able to reach the bedside of his noble, dying boy and have his heart comforted with the assurance that the Saviour he had so long and faithfully served was with his son in this trying hour.

"Thus Dr. W. S. Neely passed away, in the prime of a gifted and virtuous manhood, from a loving family and from many, many friends." This tragedy occurred when he and a long-time friend, a member of the Mitchell family, were engaged in a social encounter, with one or both perhaps having had too much to drink, both drew guns and shot one another, resulting in death for both of them. The Rev. W. M. Norment, who wrote the obituary, was the local minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, beloved by all and an intimate friend

of the Rev. T. J. Neely and his family.

Ch of Dr. W. S. and Adelaide Bray Neely were:

- a. Ethel Neely b ca 1874, Hardeman Co. Tn.
- b. William Summerfield, Jr., b ca 1876 Hardeman Co Tn.

Malcolm Wilkerson, who has been a great help to me, says he believes "Aunt Adelaide" and the ch may have moved to Texas at the time many of the family were migrating. I still have hope of finding and enumerating their off-spring, of whom their father would have been justly proud, I am sure.

Charity S. Neely mentioned these grch in her WILL, dated 20 Dec 1897, but gave no information of the whereabouts of any of her heirs.

- 12. Letitia Catherine Neely, b 10 May 1851. She was called "Tish". Tish m 17 Jan 1872 Thomas O. Wilkerson, a young druggist, b 1845. In the 1880 cen of Hardeman Co we find Thomas farming and they have two ch:

- a. Sally Wilkerson b 1873

- b. Lundy Wilkerson, b 1875. Neither of these ch married. "Aunt Sally" as she was called by my husband, (who was actually a first cousin but twenty years younger), had had a serious spine injury in infancy but no injury to her brain, for she was as bright as she was good. In middle age she adopted a young son, Malcolm Wilkerson, who was her pride and joy and whom she reared well. We visited her in her home in Whiteville in, I believe, the early 1930's. She had her mor's furniture, antiques from the T. J. Neely plantation home, which we admired and which she cherished. After her d Malcolm and his wf moved to Memphis where they have reared their family and still live. I have no dates on the deaths of this family.

- 13. Franklin Boswell Neely, named for his fa's brother, Benjamin Franklin Neely, who had been called "Franklin", and for his fa's life-long friend and co-worker in the Methodist ministry, T. L. Boswell, D. D., by whose name he was called. b 11 Oct 1852, Hardeman Co Tn, d 2 Oct 1929. m 24 Dec, 1874, Union Victory (Tedie) Hankley b 11 Jan 1850 d 21 Dec 1930. Both are bur in Hollywood cem in Jackson, Tn., with "Tedie Neely" engraved on the stone that marks her grave. Aunt Tedie deserved a more adequate name, I thought, for

I always assumed it was a nick-name, not to be used for formal identification. But there it was.

Later, in perusing a compilation of cem stones in Hardeman Co., I found this observation, made by the compilers: "In an unmarked grave, is buried Henry Zachary Taylor Hankley, known as 'Bud'.... He had a twin sister, Union Victory Hankley, known as "Tedy" (who) m a Neely and they ran a hotel in Jackson for many yrs". This, of course, necessitated another search. Why 'Union Victory'? I collared the various History Buffs in the family. What happened in 1850, the yr she was b when Taylor was President. Finally we remembered; Millard Fillmore's most notable action was his stand on "States' Rights" in the "Compromise of 1850", which was made law soon after Taylor's death. Union dissolution was already in the minds of some people. Henry Clay, a distinguished Southerner, saw the Bill as a means acceptable to the South, of preserving the Union, hence a "Union Victory". There were five statutes in the Compromise, the fourth being designed to facilitate the return of fugitive slaves to their owners. "There would be no jury trial; an affidavit by owner of the slave would establish title; presiding Judge to receive \$10 fee if he returned the fugitive and only \$5 if he ordered the negro released."

The north was not happy over this Bill, but the South was jubilant. I'm sure Tedy never felt that it justified her unusual name. However, her twin brother was named Henry Zachary Taylor Hankley and he was called "Bud"! You can't win every time!

We had been to visit them at "Neely House" Oct 1929. My husband and I had taken his mor Belle Neely Renshaw to Jackson to visit her brother, since he was known to be terminally ill. They had been near in age and ch-hood playmates. It was too late. He was not aware of his surroundings and d within the week. We were there for lunch-dinner, really; served family style at many large tables. Business was still good, but roads were improving and automobiles were already supplanting train travel. However, it was still an all-day round trip on winding narrow roads; a great treat for our small children who were accustomed to the monotony of city streets. Tedie was a nice little lady with a great deal of energy. She d the next yr 21 Dec 1930.

The "Neely House" was across the street from the R. R. Station and a haven for "Drummers" and R. R. men whose "runs" ended there and who

desired cleanliness, good food. And a friendly family atmosphere was there for those who sought it. However, its days were numbered, although it did outlive its time, and is still a thing of architectural beauty, the spacious white-columned veranda beckoning proudly in the blighted area of the R. R. Station.

Ch of Franklin Boswell and Tedie Neely were:

- a. Omar Neely b 4 Oct 1875 Hardeman Co Tn, d 29 Jan 1939
Jackson Tn m Lillie Kendrick of Jackson. Issue:

1. Roy Neely b ca 1901 Jackson Tn. d of Diptheria in infancy;

2. Russell Neely b 11 Jun 1911, Jackson Tn d 3 Feb 1967, bur Hollywood cem. Russell's surviving wf, Mary Burk Neely was a most kind and gracious person. Russell

had no ch so we see this branch of the family in terminus, which we regret.

- b. Alma Neely b 22 Aug 1878 Hardeman Co. d 1 Aug 1900, Jackson Tn m Francis Marion Dugger, a much beloved passenger conductor on the R. R. Issue:

1. Francis Marion Dugger, Jr. b 1900, d 1901. I have a lengthy obit on this little fellow, written by a local newsman. He had contracted diptheria, which had taken the life of his little cousin Roy Neely just two weeks earlier. The newspaper had a special interest in 'Little Francis' since they had held a Baby Contest earlier in the year and he had been chosen the most Winsome Baby. (His mor had preceded him in death. I do not know the cause of her death). Much sympathy was felt for Mr. Dugger, a devoted husband and father.

- c. Henry Neely, "son of F. B. and U. V. Neely", on his tombstone, named for his mor's twin bro was b in Hardeman Co. 3 Nov 1883 and lived only four days bur in Hankley cem Hardeman Co. Tn.

14. Fannie Taylor, dau of Rev. T. J. and Charity Neely. I think this little girl must have been named for one of the famous 'Taylor's Chapel' Family of Methodists. She was b 25 Aug 1854, d 9 Oct 1855. Bur T. J. N. cem.

15. Amanda Belle Neely b 12 Feb 1856 Hardeman Co Tn. d 14 May 1948 bur Maplewood Cem Paris, Tn. m 9 Nov 1887 the Rev. Jarrett Smith Renshaw, b 22 Mar 1848, Henderson Co. Tn, d 5 May 1920, Memphis, Tn. bur St. Paul cem, Durhamville, Lauderdale Co. Tn where his 1/wf and two of their sons (dc) were bur.

Belle Neely's early ch-hood was a "best of all worlds" existence. The comforts and luxuries of that day; the security of a large plantation home, together with the proximity of aunts, uncles, numerous cousins of all ages, (many of these of undesirable disposition, and even character, sometimes, but members of the family nevertheless). Unrelated families who were also early settlers and friends of long standing were referred to by the youngsters as Mr. Mitchell, or whatever, his wf being Miss Sallie, or Betty, or Mattie, the lovely old names of the past now having shortened to nicknames. If there was a vague, distant kinship between families, the elders were called, Cousin John or Cousin Sallie. The pleasing but rapidly diminishing "Southern accent" had transformed the word, 'cousin', preceding a given name, to 'Cuddin John', or 'Cuddin Sallie', etc.

The relationship between the family and their slaves also contributed to this feeling of oneness with their surroundings. The slaves had been in bondage for so long and their relationship to others of their own African tribes and culture so cleverly cut off by the slave-trader that there was generally a resignation to their status that we can scarcely conceive today. The slave was a valuable commodity and was treated as such. The most intelligent and sensible ones were generally chosen as house servants and their abilities respected and appreciated by the mistress and her children. Margaret Mitchell portrayed these relationships well in "Gone With the Wind", as she did the desolation of the owners when the slaves were suddenly gone.

In my ch-hood in early 1900, the 'colored person' was legally free, of course, but after forty years he was still in bondage to ignorance, fear and lack of any opportunity to improve his lot. Therefore, the negroes that I knew in ch-hood held the same characteristics. They loved the "Whitefolks" who were good to them and avoided when possible those who were not. My sister and I had a 'nurse'. She was not a 'Mammy', or even a Nurse. She lived on my grfa's large farm (they weren't called plantations any more) and she chopped cotton in summer and picked cotton in the fall. In between she took care of us (we could go so much farther away if she was with us to the "Little Woods" or down to the road to the mail-box). She loved us and we adored her.

This harangue began in an effort to make a contrast between life on the Neely plantation before 1865 and that of the ensuing years, with acres of poor land, large homes with many children, worthless confederate money, if any at all; inured to a culture in which for three generations the whites had not turned a hand to any sort of work. Of course, this was not true throughout the South, but certainly true in the Southwest counties of Tennessee, where the expression, "cultural shock" was probably unknown but certainly was experienced. This was Belle Neely's world in the tenth year of her life. Anderson and I often found ourselves analyzing her personality. What made her tick? She had an outgoing personality; liked people and very much wished to be liked. Many people did love her. She had no tact at all, but general goodwill and liking for people minimized the bad situations that could have risen as a result of her frankness.

But we felt that somewhere in the trauma of change in her girlhood, she had developed a protective mental block that had made her impervious to unnecessary change. In the 1930s she was wearing the same type underwear that prevailed in the 1860's. Knee-length pants (hardly to be called 'panties'), in two parts from the waistband and looking like twin white flags when flying on the clothesline on a March day. In addition to petticoats, she wore a Chemise. It was very much like today's slip, but quite full in waist and hips, extending up to the neckline. No shoulder straps for her. These had to be custom made and it was not always easy to find a dressmaker sentimental enough to have kept her grandmother's patterns.

In the matter of cooking, the same situation prevailed. She was a good cook and had a wide variety of delicious dishes, but not one was concocted later than the 1860s. Chicken and dressing, baked sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes the texture of ice cream, biscuits and cake to melt in your mouth and never a recipe. Turnip greens, kale or collards and cornbread on her table were fit for a king.

Belle had a fine mind but her total lack of interest in ideas and events of the day kept her from being a real companion of her scholarly husband. Jarrett Smith Renshaw, in his fortieth year when left a widower with seven ch, ages 13 to 2 yrs, m Belle Neely, age 31 not previously married. He had had a fine marriage and had a bright, energetic, funloving and close knit family when his wife died, leaving him desolate. He was a Methodist minister and so was Belle's father, but Grandpa Neely had reached the age of 87, was in bad health and totally apart from Conference circles, so that they were not acquainted.

Lenora (Nonie) Smith Renshaw had been dead less than a yr when a kind and sympathetic friend, Bro. Wilson, Methodist minister close to both families, seems to have suggested to the distraught father that he knew of a fine Christian maiden lady, brought up in the Methodist church, who might make him a loyal and suitable wf, offering, I presume, to take him to the Neely home to meet the lady and her family. I have a letter that I shall quote from which is the source of my information. It follows; written after J.S.R. had made his first call on Belle, accompanied by another minister.

Ripley, Tenn.
Sept. 23, 1887

Miss Belle Neely,
My dear friend;

After a ride made pleasant by yesterday's rain, Bro. Johnston and I reached home just after sunset this evening. Tomorrow I will be engaged and my meeting, to begin tomorrow night, will so engross my time for several days that I embrace this hour to perform the pleasing task promised to write to you.

Those at home are well. I will go out to see those in the country in the morning. Nothing has been heard from them since I left; this I take as favorable. If Anna, who had been unwell for some days, had grown worse, news to that effect would have reached us.

While I would not attempt to decide for you the matter submitted in our conversation yesterday, yet I must say, the hope which I entertain that it will be favorable has filled my heart with more sunshine for the two days past than has been my lot thru all these weary months. I know you will speak candidly and should you consent, I feel an inward consciousness that the Lord will bless the union when consummated.

Your request for my poor prayers in the determination will not be forgotten nor neglected. To my heavenly Father I commit the whole matter.

I do not think of any point upon which you might wish information left untouched by us; if there be any, or any information further of those discussed, it will be my pleasure to afford it.

I feel assured that you will not ask a longer delay for your reply

than is required to reach a decision.

We failed to see Brother Wilson as we came through Brownsville, hence it was not my fortune to deliver your message. When I go that way again I will not forget it.

I am very well. May the Lord direct us both in all we think or do.

With much esteem. I am
Truly yours,
J. S. Renshaw."

I have only one of Belle's letters to him. Some evidence of her preoccupation with the feeling toward her by others is shown in this letter, full of exciting details of her trousseau preparations:

Home
Oct. 21, 1887

Dear Friend:

I have just received your letter this eve. Was glad, of course, as you know I have been very fortunate in getting all of your letters the day they get to Whiteville.

I went to Bolivar, Wednesday. Had a very pleasant time but didn't get home until eight o'clock-tired as I well could be, but I was fortunate, got through trading and I won't have to go any more. Several asked me where I was fixing to go. I told them I was expecting to go to Conference.

Emma Kinney, my special lady friend, was to see me this eve. She will help me sew next week. She had a good cry; said she didn't know how she could stand for me to leave her. She is such a dear, sweet girl. I know you would love her if you could see her. She says she will love you for my sake. I told her you was worthy of anyone's love.

Oh! If I could only see you tonight, how happy I would be. I have got just lots to tell you. I never did appreciate writing because we can't write like we can talk, but I will have to be content for a short while. How the time flies! I dread parting with them all so much and yet I feel it will all be for the best. Pray for me that the Lord will give me grace sufficient for that hour, but I know

you will anyway for I believe that you pray for me every day and I can assure you that I never kneel to pray but what I try in my poor way to ask the Lord to bless my dear friend and make him a shining light that others seeing his good works may be constrained thereby.

Yes, I believe, too that I will be happy with you. If I didn't I would never have consented to occupy that responsible place. My sister-in-law said to me the other day the same as you did, that the Lord's hand was in this matter, she believed fully. So did Bro. Wilson. I didn't get to talk to him but little when he was here. There were others here, but he said he felt proud of us both and was glad we would honor him so much. He gave me some good advice, bless his dear heart. I have such a tender affection for him. He has always been so kind and gentle, just like I was his child. I told Bro. B(oswell?) the other day why I had selected Bro. Wilson and he said he was glad. He and his family will be here. He is as good as he can be.

I was glad to hear from the children. It did me good to know that they would give me a hearty welcome. Words can't express it. I know I will love them for your sake if nothing more. How I wish I could see them before the 9th. Give them my love. I haven't seen Cousin Charlie but once since you were here and he was very busy; didn't say very much to me. I kept my distance, anyway. Cousin Bettie has a rich joke on me, but I can't tell you-not for anything. It is rich, too. As it's late, must stop. I am going to take better care of myself and you must, too. Pleasant dreams.

Lovingly,
Belle

Eight other letters were written by J. S. Renshaw before the marriage. I am quoting the last one.

Henning, Tenn (part of
his Ripley Circuit)
October 31st 1887

My dear Miss Belle:

Your favor of Oct 24th came to hand Thursday last, but as I had just mailed an answer to yours of the 21st, I deferred answering til now. My fingers are so benumbed this morning that any use of the pen is very clumsy.

It is comforting to know that your dress looks so nice, and that you are having so much assistance in your preparations. I am the more rejoiced that your family are reconciled to our marriage. But the greatest pleasure arises in the hopeful view you take to this matter. Yes, I am confident that you will love the children. They are, I think, good and smart. The older ones look to your coming into the family with enthusiasm. They very often speak of you.

And you are tired of the people wearying you? Well, it must be annoying I have such a good time that I hardly know how to sympathize with you. Only another week and it will all cease! Let them have their fun that long. I do feel sorry for Bro. and Sister Neely. When I spoke of it to them, your Ma came near crying. But the Lord will provide for them. It is a pleasure to know that your Ma thinks you are doing right. Remember me kindly to them both.

No word has come to me from Mr. C. F. Neely. Be sure to look after the little favor asked. May be there is a letter at home from him now. You must tell me the joke Sister H has when we meet. Do the girls sing "sweet birds" for you?

This week, as last, I shall spend on my circuit in the effort to get my disciplinary money. If I fail to write again, this will be the cause.

We are all very well. Anna is gaining flesh and strength rapidly. You may look for us on the 8th.

Affectionately,
J. S. Renshaw,

And so they were married. Dau Anna Renshaw accompanied her fa from their home near Ripley to Whiteville, quite a trip by horse-and-buggy in late autumn. The Rev. A. R. Wilson officiated and I suppose Charles F. Neely, fa of Charlie Neely Mahoney was Best Man. The bride and groom spent their Honeymoon at Annual Conference, which was quite appropriate since both were known and loved by all in attendance there.

Belle Neely Renshaw must have attended school on the plantation in her early years. After the War, she attended Boarding School in McKenzie, in Carroll Co. McKenzie Male & Female Institute was founded in 1867 by Capt. H. C. Irby, A. M., bro of Lundy R. Irby, under the auspices of the Methodist Church. In 1871 Capt Irby and E. H. Randall, M. A.

chartered it as McKenzie College. It must have been about this time that Bell attended. I think she looked back upon it as one of the bright times in her experience. In later years; in fact, when she was quite old, the recollection of an old beau, John Winsett, came to her mind, and she tried to persuade members of the family to write him. Another friend, Enolia, had visited her home, it seemed, and a very sentimental thank-you note is in the old Scrap-Book in my possession. On the same paper was a long and very sentimental poem "To Belle", dated Jan 31, 1879, but the letter is not dated. I quote because it illustrates the common pre-occupation with death which was prevalent as scientific knowledge of medicine was so limited.

"To Belle- The remembrance of Whiteville and the dear friends of mine who are still there will never be erased from my memory, while time endures on earth with me, and we have all crossed the last river of our earthly career. I hope we will all be found standing at the right hand of the great Jehovah awaiting and worthy of the bright and pure crowns held in reservation for the faithful children of God. I, for one, anticipate a happy, a glorious meeting at the Great White Throne in Heaven. Belle, I believe I will meet you there, and Uncle Neely, bless his good old soul. Oh! yes, and all the rest of you. I ask your prayers as a special favor, for I know I need them.

"Your true friend, Enolia."

These were happy people, enjoying the very best in life, but death was an ever-present factor in their lives. The Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely's family was not unusual. His first wife, Sarah, died at 18 yrs., probably of "consumption", leaving a son, Richard. He married, was quite prosperous; had six children, all died in childhood except one daughter, Jimmy, who lived to be married by her grandfather, but died four years later, in her twenties. Richard had died of exposure in the Civil War, and his wife applying for a pension in her old age, said, "I have no one at all".

T. J. Neely married again after Sarah's death. This wife, Allie, had four children. The son, T. J. B. Neely, survived, but the others died in infancy and the mother died with the last one. The son lost two wives in their twenties; the third survived him.

Childbirth was the great killer of women, T. B. was next; taking both sexes. Life was uncertain and death always near.

There were difficult times in the Renshaw family, I am sure, for Belle proved to be not well fitted for the role of stepmother. They served God and man through the Methodist Church in the Memphis Conference for many years, until Papa Renshaw became very ill. Paul, the youngest child of the older "set", and Anderson, were living in New Orleans in 1914. Paul was married but Anderson was not. He rented a little house and had his parents come there. They were appreciative, but they longed for home scenes and the people they knew and loved. So Anderson brought them back to Memphis in 1917. George, the youngest son had been in the Armed Forces, but had received a Medical Discharge, since he had proved prone to serious respiratory troubles. When he came home, Anderson felt that he should enlist, which he did in June 1918. Papa Renshaw was bedridden much of the time, but was able to officiate at our marriage June 28, 1919. He passed away in March, 1920. I should like to have known him in earlier days, before illness had sapped his energy and much of his spirit. His greatness and his goodness were evident to the last.

Ch of Jarrett Smith and Belle Neely Renshaw were:

a. Helen Renshaw b 27 Aug 1888 Ripley, Tn. m Paris, Tn George Frank Morris b 15 Dec 1892 Henry Co. Tn d 3 June 1954, Paris, Tn. bur Maplewood cem. nc. Helen was never a very happy person and Frank, who was connected with the Bank in Paris, was a good husband. He d suddenly from heart failure. Helen, aged and failing in health lives in Paris although she is unable now to live alone.

b. Anderson Neely Renshaw b 6 Feb 1891 Newbern Tn. d 3 Nov 1968 Memphis Tn bur Forest Hill Cem m 28 Jun 1919, Memphis Tn. Grace Parke, b 1 May 1896 Douglas Co. Ill. Anderson, being a Methodist preacher's son, lived in many of the West Tn towns in his youth. He attended a Methodist school, Branham & Hughes, in Springhill, Tn. He was in the retail coal business for many years, was a Charter member of his Kiwanis Club; active in his Church which he put above other activities.

The coal business gave little time for extended traveling in early days, but conversion to gas as a heating fuel limited the coal use so that closing the office in summer became possible and we became avid travelers. No "tours", on our own or with our 'traveling' ch. Anderson added photography to his hobbies. From the Frontanac in Quebec to the goldleaf altars in Rio, he snapped his camera. The

outdoor markets in Bahia to the vast dome-covered Bazaars at Tehran and Istanbul; Paris on Bastille Day; the Great Salt Lakes-smelly in the summer heat of Utah, brown and bouyant in The Holy Land, blue as the sky with crystal-white waves of the Caspian. And, of course, the narrow shady streets of by-passed towns in USA. Have you ever been to Frog Hollow? Foy? Pine Knot? (Its not far from Strunk-surely you have been there), and safe at home, revisiting on the screen, Bok Tower, Brookgreen Gardens, lighthouses, Floral Clocks. He sold the business, now worth very little, and retired at age 71, adding wood-working to his many interests and found life never dull. always full of meaning until his fatal illness in 1968. It is to his memory that this little book is dedicated.

His sons loved and admired him and I adored him. Our ch:

1. Anderson Neely Renshaw, Jr. b 9 Jun 1920 m Jean Patricia (Patty) Adams, 1 Aug 1942 Memphis, Tn. An officer in W. W. II, attended U. of Tn, majoring in Agric with M. S. from Cornell. Spent, with his family, about twenty yrs in the Orient in that work, living in Iran, India, Nepal and Indonesia, enjoying it all but dreaming of a farm in the States in the future. Now retired to their farm in McNairy Co Tn with three St. Bernards, three Lhasa Apsos and a pony for the grch. Issue:
 - a. Anderson Neely Renshaw, III, b 4 Dec 1943. Lawton Okla. m Sassy Warren 11 Nov 1967, Knoxville, Tn. Attended Brent School, Baggio, P. I. and U. of Tn. Received his Commission in the Infantry upon Graduation and served his Country in Vietnam. Killed in action 13 Apr 1969. Bur Knoxville on a windy spring day in the beautiful dogwood season. The saddest day of our lives.
 - b. Dennis Heath Renshaw, b 16 Jul 1947 Brownsville Tn m 29 Jun 1969 Judy Jacqueline Matthews, Madison Co. Tn., Attn Castle Heights Mil. Academy, Lambuth Col. and U. of Tn. An industrial engineer, lives in Union City, Tn. ch are: Camellia Anne Renshaw b Knoxville, Tn 18 Sept 1971; Heather Renee Renshaw b 24 Jan 1975, Union City, Tn.; D. H. Renshaw, Jr. 3 Sep 1976, Union City, Tn.
 - c. Pamela Patricia Renshaw b 1 Aug 1952 Crockett Co Tn. Grad of U. of Tn. with further work at Mphs. State U. Fine, well trained soprano voice, Teacher in Public School.

2. Jarrett Parke Renshaw b 27 Jan 1923, Memphis, Tn.
m 2 Jun 1946 Eunice Whiting, Camilla, Ga. div.

Meth minister, educator. B.A., B.D., Emory U. Atlanta; PhD. U. of Fla. Gainesville, where his ch received most of their education. Member of So. Ga. Methodist Conf., Missionary to Brazil for fifteen yrs. On faculty of W. Ga. College, Carrollton, Ga. Ch are:

- a. Kathleen Acre Renshaw b 22 May 1948 Atlanta.
B.A., M.S.U. of Fla.
- b. Jarrett Cannon Renshaw, b 21 Aug 1950, Memphis, Tn. Majored journalism, U. of Fla. Musician, Singer, composer, and very good, indeed. Lives in Jacksonville, Fla.
- c. Susannah Renshaw b 13 Jul 1954, Maringá, Parana, Brazil. Also talented in music. Attended U. of Fla., W. Ga. Col, U. of Penna. Undecided on a career.
- d. Clay Parke Renshaw b 23 Feb 1956 Atlanta. No career decision.

3. Ernest Wilroy Renshaw (Roy) b 1 Jun 1927 Memphis m 1 Sep 1950 Janetta Tabitha Martin, Livingston, Tn B.S., M.S. Emory U. Engaged in research at Lamont Laboratories, Columbia U. for several years. A dedicated mining Geologist, he leaves no stone unturned...sorry, Roy, that must be an old gag but honestly, I have never heard it before. It just came through on the keyboard. I recommend him as a companion on a trip to the Rockies, or to the beautiful Smokies with their narrow gravel roads sneaking up on the mountainsides and holding secrets that the 'city slicker' would not dare spy upon alone. They, too, have lived in varied locations, always enjoying new scenes and situations. Hiking, camping, and canoeing are favorite sports. Live in Carlsbad, N. M. Ch:

- a. James Lester Renshaw b 18 Aug 1952, Sweetwater, Tn. Attended Colo. U. Bolder and U. of Ariz. Also a geologist. Also in Carlsbad.
- b. Grace Rebecca Renshaw b 30 Sep 1955, Nyack, N.Y. In college in Nampa, Utah. Talented

c. Philip Ernest Renshaw, b 14 Jul 1960 Rome, Ga.

4. Julian Thomas Renshaw b 13 Sep 1932 d Nov 30, 1932.
Memphis Tn. A 'blue' baby, very bright and sweet,
but greatly enlarged heart. It happened to us, so
I share the grief of all the Neely mothers so afflicted.

c. George Andrew Renshaw, b 9 Apr 1895 at Curve Tn. d 5 Oct
1964. m 1 Jan 1926 Lorena McCormick b 23 Aug 1897, LaPorte, Ind.
Served in W. W. I, medical discharge because of recurring
respiratory troubles. Was a partner in a successful printing business.
He was a sportsman; loved good dogs, hunting and fishing until his
health failed some yrs before his death. Issue:

1. Loretta Pearl Renshaw b 16 Jan 1927 Memphis, Tn. m
Asbury L. Jones, Jr., Memphis. Ch:

a. Patty Jones m Fred Green Stone, Jr. Patty's
college was Memphis State. She is a career
teacher at Hernando, Miss., near their farm

home in Como.

b. Asbury L. Jones, III, is a student of River
navigation at River Academy, Helena, Ark.

2. Paul Andrew Renshaw b 10 Oct 1929 Memphis, Tn m.
Margaret Duncan, Memphis, Tn. Paul attended McCallie,
Chattanooga, and Memphis State. With the son of his
father's business partner, he carries on the printing business.
Possibly allied is his interest in collecting books with fine old
bindings. He is also a collector of guns and, like his father, a
sportsman. They have one son, Paul Andrew Renshaw, Jr., (called
'Drew'), who was a "latecomer" and is still in grade school.

3. Sue Ann Renshaw b 22 Apr 1932 Memphis Tn m Michael C.
Ossorio. div. Issue: Susan Ossorio, student at Emory
U. of Atlanta; Cathey and Michael Ossorio, in school,
Memphis.

d. Elizabeth Renshaw b 10 May 1898, d 20 Jun 1899 Union City
Tn bur Brown's Church Cem Jackson Tn.

16. Jenny Helen Neely, sixteenth ch of the Rev. T. J. Neely, was named for Charity's sister, Temperance Helen Springfield Skillern b 9 May 1858 Hardeman Co Tn d 5 Aug 1934 Denton Tx. Attended McKenzie Col. and was quite a beauty, I believe. m 20 Sep 1880 Hardeman Co Tn the Rev. William Alonzo Boone, Baptist minister, b 1 Oct 1846, Coldwater, Miss. His fa was b Ala, his mor b Tn. He d 26 Jun 1928 Denton Tx. Ch:

a. John Frederick Alonzo Boone b 14 Feb 1884 Denton Tx d 19 Nov 1900 bur I.O.O.F. Cem Denton, Tx. His funeral notice is in the Scrapbook of his grmor, Charity Neely.

b. Susie Belle Boone, named for two of her mor's sisters, b 19 Aug 1888 Denton Tx. These two ch went with their mor to visit their grpts in Tn when they were quite young.

Their picture, with their grpts and two of the faithful negro servants grouped on the spacious veranda of the old home is included in this book. Susie Belle d 12 Apr 1954. She m John Mallegan Wright (b 6 May 1884 d 22 Jul 1944) Denton Tx 24 Oct 1906. Issue:

1. Helen Neely Wright b 4 Oct 1908 Denton Tx. m (1) William Crow Wright (b 9 Dec 1902 Denton Tx.) on 8 Oct 1935. He d 11 Jul 1967. Helen m (2) 15 Nov 1972 G. L. Hardin nc.

2. Fred Boone Wright b 31 Aug 1913 Denton Tx. d 22 Mar 1975. m Dorothy Tittle 9 Sep 1942, Denton, Tx. Issue: (all Denton Tx)

a. Judith Ann Wright b 25 Jan 1945 teaches Freshman English at N.T.S.U.;

b. Fred Russel Wright b 5 Dec 1952;

c. Olivia Susan Wright b 2 Apr 1956 m 5 Oct 1975 Troy Lynn Sanders at the home of her aunt and uncle, Dr. and Mrs. C. W. Tittle of Dallas;

d. Helen Elizabeth Wright b 15 May 1958.

I asked Helen to write something about the family and the other Neelys living out there. Some of this has been very helpful in bringing up to date the history of several branches already

chronicled. They are a family of educators, some of Helen's achievements being listed in the 1970-71 issue of "Who's Who of American Women", accompanied by a strikingly handsome photograph.

Helen mentions Irby Neely Grant and his devotion to his mor, Allie Rhea Neely Grant. And she adds, "I am about the same age as her (Allie Rhea Grant's) little girl (if she had lived), and after my mor died she called me her little girl (note-a hint of humor is implied, indicating that the word 'little' is not quite fitting). On my birthday, she always called me early in the morning and sang, "Happy Birthday" to me. I gave her a Big Birthday Party on her nintieth and she was very pleased. I wish I had written down all the things she told me about the family. She was a very pretty lady. I thought she looked like my Grmor Helen Boone.

"Grfa Boone taught school and was a Baptist preacher, at Cooker Creek, a very small church and school here in Denton County, about two miles from the farm he and grmor bought when they came to Texas. We lived on that farm until I was twelve years old. Grfa had to quit teaching and preaching very early because he lost his hearing. At his death, we gave his many books to N.T.S.U. He studied his Bible in four languages.

"Grmor was a Methodist and so were all of us. But we went to both churches when we were growing up. Mother and daddy never did live away from her family. They did not want her to leave when she married, so we all lived happily together. When Grfa died we sold the farm and moved to Denton, where in 1929 we built a large home near the University... I have had it rented to a Fraternity for many years, but plan to sell it.

"My father was a paint contractor. My mother was very small and looked like the Boones. My brother looked like our parents, I look and act more like the Neely side of the family, my grmor Helen said. She put lots of independent ideas into my head. (She thought women were as smart as men!)

"Brother was P. E. Director at Irving High School, about thirty miles from Denton but he commuted daily until his health failed. He was 'Chief Specialist' in the Coast Guard for four years in W. W. II.

"Now about me...My first marriage was a happy and successful one. We had no children and I wanted life as an Art Teacher. I have had

a wonderful, full teaching career filled with exciting activities. I retired in 1972 after teaching thirty-two years. I taught 'Art in Business' and 'Fashion Merchandising' at N.T.S.U. and still do many Art Education Workshops for Elementary teachers in Arts and Crafts.

"I met Mr. G. L. Hardin in 1969 and we married in 1972. We enjoy each other and like working in the yard and greenhouse together and taking long walks, and I often go to the ranch with him."

How I wish every family had sent me such an account! Thanks, Helen.

17. Terressa Polk Neely, dau of Rev. T. J. and Charity Neely, b 25 Jul 1859 d 8 Aug 1859, Hardeman Tn. Only one line is required to tell the story of her little life. A century, and much scientific knowledge later, it might have been different.

18. Frederick Cross Neely, son of Rev. T. J. and Charity Neely, b 29 May 1861 Hardeman Co. Tn d 21 Nov 1927. He is named for two of Charity's brothers-in-law; Frederick B. Ragland, husband of sister, Elizabeth W. Springfield Ragland, and for Maj. Richard DeBerry Cross, husband of Sarah A. Springfield Cross, Charity's half-sister. The name, 'Richard' had been given to Grandpa Neely's first son, whose maternal grfa was Capt. Richard Putney, so the surname, Cross, was given.

Fred m 6 Jan 1899 Mary (Mamie) Henrietta Carpenter, b 18 Jan 1873 at Vienna, Pickens Co. Ala. She d 10 Feb 1956, Greensboro, Ala. Both are bur in Mesopotamia cem, Eutaw, Ala. Mamie was the dau of Dr. Perry Strickland Carpenter and Martha Christiana Pearson Carpenter of Vienna, Ala.

Uncle Fred and Aunt Mamie lived in Ark. early in their marriage. Childless, they adopted a dau, Eva Neely, b 6 Jun 1899. Eva m Lester Lyle Hemenway. They had three ch: Evelyn, Mamie and L. L. Hemenway, Jr. Evelyn's son, Edward P. Whately, Jr., is restoring the fine old home of the Whately family.

Helen W. Hardin told me a story that had come down to her. Uncle Fred went to Denton for a visit, she said. He had a beautiful voice and sang his way into the hearts of all the Denton girls, being also a very handsome man. The girl that he chose to date, Miss Sena Mount, later became Mrs. W. W. Wright, and was Helen's mor-in-law.

Uncle Fred must have spent considerable time singing to pretty girls in Tn, Ark, Tx, and finally Ala, since he was thirty-nine when married. 22

The story of Grandpa Neely's conversion at a Methodist Campmeeting is told several times in the articles that follow. How his father renounced him, saying, "Go in peace; I don't care if I never see you again as you will be a disgrace to me". He did go, with only his clothes, his horse, his Bible and the tearful blessing of his saintly mother. He was then seventeen yrs of age and it was many yrs before his father became reconciled. In his old age, Thomas J. Neely said, "In later yrs, I had the pleasure of helping my father educate his younger children and of aiding in his support and he died in the triumph of faith, ascribing to me a part of the credit of bringing him to the Cross."

Charity Neely must have been a great lady. The plantation never suffered when Grandpa Neely was away, as he was much of the time, especially in summer, holding revivals. And she was a comfort in times of doubt and despair which descended upon him on occasion for no apparent cause.

When old age came, finding them poor and also ailing in body, they found the same comfort and joy in their God and in each other that had been theirs in the old days of health and plenty.

Near the end of the Way he said, "I have no regrets for the past, except that I would like to have been more useful. With declining days, religion grows brighter and more comforting...and for myself, I can say, "All is well, All is well..."

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TALES OF THE OLD TIME by J. W. Boswell, D.D.

Reverend Thomas J. Neely

Uncle Tom Neely was one of my favorite preachers when I was a little boy. In my youthful mind he was the ideal man. In fact, he was a man. Physically he was of large proportions, without a pound of surplus flesh. Had he taken on fat in proportion to his frame, the itinerant ministry in his day would have been an impossibility to him. "Circuit riders" then were the "horse soldiers" of the service, and no horse in the land could have carried him. The horse that did carry him had a load, sometimes nearly two hundred pounds. Besides physical manhood, he was blessed with a good mind, well stored with information, which he used to fine advantage. He devoted the prime of his life to the church. In this he was wholehearted and remarkably successful. In preaching ability he was above the average, and the word was so delivered by him as to make it a sword of tremendous power. Among the people Uncle Tom was always welcome. Rich and poor alike gladly received him into their homes. He loved children, and to them he was magnetic; he drew them to him.

About half of Brother Neely's ministry was spent in the local ranks. During that time he devoted himself to farming, in which he was as successful as he was in his work as a minister. He accumulated a considerable amount of property. His start in that line was partly due to his great energy and partly to an inheritance of his wife. The two together managed their affairs with great discretion, and at the beginning of the war, in 1861, to use Uncle Tom's own expression, they were "rich". They owned a large farm, well located, productive, and well stocked with everything necessary to cultivation. They lived in a big, fine house, and were blessed with a troop of healthy, happy children, who had grown up like olive plants around their table.

Brother Neely was born in Rutherford (sic) County, Tenn., in 1803, and died in Hardeman County in 1890. He was converted and joined the Church early in life and almost immediately responded to the call for active service. He had an exceedingly hard time in following his convictions, especially when he made up his mind to become a Methodist preacher. He had no Methodist ancestors. His Mother was a Presbyterian, and a good woman. His father, if not a member of the Church, was inclined to the Presbyterians, and had neither love nor tolerance for the Methodists,

and when his boy proposed to join the Tennessee Conference, the father became furious and told him that if he did so he would deny him the shelter of his house and disinherit him. In his distress he went to his mother, whom to the day of his death he called "Mammy". She gave him the sympathy of her good heart and advised him to follow his convictions. This was all she could do, but it strengthened the boy in his purpose, and he started on his long and useful career as a Methodist preacher. In a little while two sons instead of one (the late Rev. P. P. Neely, D.D., was the other), were hated Methodist preachers. The father lived to see them both honored and useful preachers and came at last to acknowledge that there was genuine religion among the Methodists.

Uncle Tom did not excel in preaching as did his brother Phillip, but he was among the foremost as a leader in song and prayer. He was wonderfully gifted in prayer. (Among preachers I would place only Bishop Paine above Philip, none would I place by his side). On great revival occasions Uncle Tom sometimes seemed to be inspired, and I doubt not that he was. As a singer, for all kinds of meetings, at any season, I never saw his superior. Possibly this opinion is due in part to the fact that he was the first man I ever knew to create enthusiasm with song and leave no place or necessity for a sermon. It was at a camp meeting in 1852, held at a point on, or near Wolf River between Rossville and Collierville, on the Southern Railroad. He was appointed to preach one night. It was the first time I saw him. I remember how he looked much better than if it had been five years ago. He followed the usual order of exercises. At the close of the prayer, instead of announcing a second hymn, he began, as Jack Holland did in Philadelphia, a song, in singing which he needed no help. Indeed, it was a song in which no one could help, for no one present had ever heard either the song or the tune. It was said by some of the brothers that the preacher "made up the song as he went along." I do not know about that, but I do know that an interest was aroused the like of which I have never seen from that day to this. There was literally an uproar among the people—a shouting in the camp. The Spirit seemed to have taken hold of every Christian and of sinners, who, by the score in a little while were crying for mercy. The interest created by the song was such and continued for so long that preaching was forgotten and attention was wholly given to the pentinents. How many persons were converted as a result of that song was never known. If I had never met the singer again, that song and its wonderful effects would have fixed the name of Uncle Tom Neely forever in my mind and heart.

It was nearly fifteen years after that camp meeting, unless my memory is at fault, before I met Uncle Tom again. The good providence of God

threw us together in 1867-68. I frequently visited his home, his family being members of my pastoral charge. He was at the time on the super-numerary list, but able to do some work, and he was a great help to me in some of my revival meetings. The holy fire still burned in his heart.

Uncle Tom was not without peculiarities, mixed with a fair amount of human nature. He was impulsive, and would sometimes speak rashly, but in a little while he would recover his composure and, if necessary, would ask pardon of any whom he had offended. He was subject also to moods-which were often so severe that one unacquainted with him would think it impossible for him to survive. I remember once, when on a circuit a long distance from his home, he started to an appointment on Saturday in the finest of spirits, as happy and as hopeful as any man could be. Not a cloud marred his sky. He talked of his work and his prospects, and of how well Charity (his wife) and the children were provided for and with what perfect contentment he would leave them at home while he was away working for the Lord. He did this eloquently and in the most melodious tone. One would have thought that his peace could not be disturbed. On Monday morning as he made his way home, all was changed. He was in the deepest gloom. The whole world was dark. Not a ray of light could he see. Tragedy was staring him in the face. He wondered what Charity and the children would do. But Charity knew. She never had such spells, and she knew that they had plenty, provided by the old man's energy and foresight. And she knew so that he would come around all right in a little while and be as bright as ever.

Uncle Tom had a rich experience and it was delightful to hear him tell it. It was refreshing, no matter how often he related it. He told it well. At the close of the war he did not give out a revised statement, but he added considerably to it, for he had experienced new and strange things. After telling of his conversion and early struggles and triumphs, when his father was against him and his "mammy" was for him, he would tell how he desired to be rich and prayed the Lord to prosper him, which, he said, the Lord had done. "And, brethren," said he, "when the war came up I was rich; yes, I was rich. I had all that heart could wish. But war swept all my property away. I am poor and growing old, and find it hard to get along in the world. But, bless the Lord, I am happy-happy in my soul, as happy as a man can be-but I don't thank the Yankees for it a bit."

Uncle Tom Neely left us for his heavenly home nearly twenty-five years ago, but with the old folks today who knew and loved him his memory will abide

fresh and green, and they hope to join him by and by in singing the "old, old story that we have loved so long."

Nashville, Tennessee

1914.

Obituary

Anderson Skillern

About twenty eight years ago, Mr. Anderson Skillern, of Denmark, Madison County, Tenn., came to Arkansas with his family, and settled in the town of Searcy; and on the 13th of July, 1858, six months after his death, was born his youngest child, Anderson. Ander, as this son was commonly called, was the healthiest of a considerable family until he was about 17 years old, when he had an attack of pleurisy while a student at Emory & Henry College. This left his lungs in a weak state from which he never recovered, and gradually consumption came on, and at last resulted in death.

He suffered much for the last few years, but for several months his sufferings were very great. Every attention was given him by his devoted mother and loving brothers, sisters and friends, but he died Nov. 16, 1883. (Age 25 years)

Mr. Skillern professed conversion at an early age and lived above reproach as a moral man and a reverent believer in Christianity, but he did not become fully satisfied of his acceptance with God until a short time before death. Often did his pastor visit him, read and pray in his room, and at length calm, sweet confidence entered his heart, and he said, "I am satisfied". Often he spoke of his desire to go home, and, just after one of his pastor's prayers, said, "If it were the Will of God, I could go right now". His patient submission to God's Will was such that he never murmured and seldom referred to his sufferings in any way. He was conscious to the last and calmly died in Christian hope.

We buried his body on a Sunday afternoon in the presence of a very large assemblage of friends, and we hope to meet him in the better land.

J. Anderson

BURIALS IN "REV. THOS. J. NEELY FAMILY CEMETERY"

Listed According to Date of Death

I feel sure there are many unmarked graves, and perhaps some covered stones that could be found in a thorough search.

1. Allie Murphy Collins Neely, 13 Feb 1804-8 Apr 1839 (2/wf T.J.N.);
2. Mary L. dau of Robt. P. & Mary L. Neely, 1839-1841;
3. Major James Neelly 24 Dec 1773-17 Apr 1842 (fa of T.J.N.);
4. Robt. P. Neely 3 Feb 1808-15 Feb 1849 (bro of T.J.N.);
5. Fannie Taylor Neely, 5 Aug 1854-9 Oct 1855 (dau of T.J.N.);
6. Richard Edwin Neely 1853-1856, son of R. J. & M. E. Neely;
7. Inf son Margaret & Nathan Johnson 1855-1859;
8. Teressa Polk Neely 1858-1859 (dau of T.J.N.);
9. Margaret S. Johnson 1831-1860, dau of R. P. & Mary L. Neely;
10. Richard James Neely 14 Aug 1829-30 May 1862 (son of T.J.N.);
11. Narcissa E., dau of Nathan & Ellen E. Johnson, no dates.
12. Inf son of H.R. & Mariah J. Neely Kirkland, 1868
13. Inf son of H.R. & Mariah J. Neely Kirkland, 1870
14. William Summerfield Neely, M.D. 2 Oct 1849-21 Dec 1878; (son of T.J.N.)
15. William Thomas Neely 1844-1882. (son of Robt. P. & M. L. Neely);
16. Rev. Thomas Jefferson Neely 23 Dec 1802-11 Aug 1890, 7:30 P.M.
17. Mary L. wf of Robert P. Neely 3 Feb 1813-3 Jul 1891.
18. Lenora Doyle Neely, wf of Wm. T. Neely 16 Apr 1844-10 Jun 1920.

LAST WILL and TESTAMENT of CHARITY SPRINGFIELD NEELY

In the name of God, Amen:

I, Charity Neely, being of sound mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this to be my last WILL and Testament, hereby revoking any and all WILLS by me heretofore made.

FIRST- I hereby designate and appoint my son-in-law, L. R. Irby, of Hardeman County, Tennessee, to be the executor of this, my last WILL and Testament.

SECOND- I direct that my executor shall, out of any money belonging to me at the time of my death, or which he may collect for me, first pay all debts which I may owe at the time of my death, including the expenses of my last sickness and burial.

THIRD- I give and bequeath to each of my six oldest children; P. J. Neely, Mrs. Susan A. Holland, Mrs. Temperance A. Irby, J. A. S. Neely, Mrs. Letitia C. Wilkerson and F. B. Neely; and Ethel Neely and W. S. Neely, the children of my deceased son, W. S. Neely, one dollar only, they having received from my late husband, the Rev. T. J. Neely, their share of our estate.

FOURTH- The residue of my estate, real and personal, I give and bequeath in equal share to my three youngest children, Amanda Belle Renshaw, Helen Boone and Fred C. Neely, and hereby direct that in the distribution made to said last three children, each of them shall account for such moneys as they may have received from me as an advancement made to him or her as a distributor of my estate.

Signed by me and declared to be my last WILL and Testament in the presence of N. B. Fizer and Pauline M. Fizer, who, in the presence of each other and at my request sign their names as attesting witnesses. This December 20th, 1897, at Wheatly, in the County of St. Francis and State of Arkansas.

Signed, Charity Neely

Signed, published and declared by Mrs. Charity Neely as her last WILL and Testament in our presence, we in her presence, and in the presence of each other hereto affix our signatures as attesting witnesses at Wheatly, St. Francis County, Arkansas, this December 20th, 1897.

N. B. Fizer
Pauline M. Fizer

Obituaries

Thomas Springfield, an old and honored citizen of Hardeman County, Tenn., died April 18, 1867, in the 81st year of his age. He was a man of great energy, of industry, economy and perseverance, which enabled him to amass an ample fortune. He lived to see his family, to the third generation, numerous, and highly respectable, many of them faithful members of the Methodist Church. He sustained the reputation of a gentleman through life; a kind neighbor, a loving father, an affectionate husband, a feeling master, a generous friend, a noble patriot, and a punctual business man. He professed religion during his long, protracted illness and gave evidence of a brighter and better mode of existence than the present. He appealed to the Divine Savior for help and claimed deliverance thru His glorious expiation. Expressions fell from his trembling lips which were cheering to his weeping children, and enhance their blissful anticipations of meeting him in the holy heaven above, to sing eternal praise to God.

J. H. Garrett

Apr. 29, 1867

Richard DeBerry Cross, was born in Chatham Co., N.C. Apr. 7, 1809, and died at his residence near Whiteville, Tn. Mar. 29, 1874. Major Cross was a Methodist. In his early youth he gave his heart to God and his hand to the Church. To the day of his death, he loved and served the Church of his choice.

Richard DeBerry Cross (cont.)

He was widely known in West Tennessee, having been happily married to Miss Sarah A. Springfield Feb. 23, 1832. He moved his little family to Madison Co., in this state, and settled near Denmark in the fall of 1839. In 1849 he moved to the place where he died.

From the records of the old New Castle Circuit, it appears that he was for many years an efficient steward. In the experience of the writer, he was as eager to learn and as prompt to supply the necessities of his preacher, as if the whole burden rested upon his shoulders. May God's grace fill his place with his sons; one of whom is now a steward.

Brother Cross had a tender love for his wife and children. In turn, never was greater devotion than his children manifested toward him every day of their lives. It was truly a FAMILY, and, though subdivided into families, he was of all the patriarch and priest.

This writer can say sincerely that it was good to converse with him on the great themes of the gospel. That privilege can be ours no more. Dear ones who mourn his absence, let us meet him in his bright home above.

Amen Warner Moore.

Obituaries

SISTER CHARITY NEELY, widow of the late Rev. T. J. Neely, of the Memphis Conference; daughter of Thomas Springfield, was born in N. Carolina, April 23, 1818. She came with her parents to Madison Co. West Tennessee, in 1836 and was married to Rev. T. J. Neely, of the Memphis Conference Jan. 30, 1840. To them were born thirteen children, ten of whom lived to be grown and married. Eight of them still live. Two, Dr. W. S. and Philip, died. Philip died since his mother passed away.

Sister Neely had twenty-eight grandchildren and six great-grand children. The last five years she made her home with her children in Arkansas, Texas and Tennessee. All these years she desired and prayed to return to Tennessee where she wished to be buried in the family graveyard beside her husband. This prayer was granted. She arrived home just five days before she died. Her end was peace. "She fell on sleep" in Jesus as sweetly as the babe in its mother's arms.

Sister Neely professed religion in early life and for more than sixty years lived a consistent member of the M. E. Church, South. For more than fifty years she was the wife of a good and true Methodist preacher. Her house was the home of the itinerant Methodist preachers, many of whom had already preceded her and Brother Neely to the better world, and "were waiting and watching". Sister Neely was a good wife, an affectionate mother, and kind neighbor.

Twenty eight years ago she was thrown from a horse. In the fall, one of her hips was so fractured that she had to use a crutch the remainder of her life. When she was laid in the casket by loving hands the old crutch which had so long supported the body was placed by her side.

Sister Neely lived to see all the ten children married and settled in life, and all except one son members of the Church, and God only knows the many prayers she offered for him. May they yet prevail for him!

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth." "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

A. R. Wilson.

Obituaries

Elizabeth Springfield Ragland, wife of Hon F. B. Ragland, of Brownsville, Tenn. was born, Chatham Co., N. C. Mar. 25, 1815 and died at the home of her son-in-law, Dr. Samuel Chester in Jackson, Tn. Jan. 7, 1884.

She and her husband had come to spend Christmas with their daughter, and in the severe weather which followed, her fatal sickness developed, and in spite of the best medical attention, her life forces failed until death ended the struggle.

She was married to Brother Ragland on Oct. 30, 1833. They moved to Madison Co. Tn in 1835 and settled near Denmark. In 1848 they moved to Fayette Co. near Dancyville, then in 1871 to Brownsville, in Haywood Co. By a well-ordered Christian life they were able to raise and educate nine children, and always had a hospitable home where itinerant Methodist preachers never failed to receive a hearty welcome and a pleasant rest. Two of her sons preceded her in death—Thomas F., a Lieut., in Capt. Erby's Co. 9th Tenn. Reg., fell in battle at Chickamauga, and her youngest died in 1871. At her request, she was taken to Dancyville and buried by the side of her two sons January 9, in that deep, deep snow.

I talked and prayed with this good Christian when she was about entering the last valley, and no

cloud hid from her faith the brightness that gleamed beyond the shadows then folding about her.

Guilford Jones.

(Raleigh Christian Advocate please copy).

Annie Holland, infant daughter of J. A. and Belle Neely, was born Dec. 29, 1882 and died September 9th, 1883.

The little babe was fat and promising until it took Whooping cough, since which time she has been gradually tending heavenward. Nothing was left undone or untried to court its stay by those who constantly watched by her side and loved her most. No parents could have felt more solicitude or bestowed more loving care on an own child than did Mr. and Mrs. Holland on this little afflicted one. God in His mercy sent the angels on snowy wings who have borne her away to an immortal home.

T. J. B. Neely
Denton, Texas

ObituariesMrs. Augusta Neely

NEELY- In the city of St. Louis, March 24, 1876, Mrs. Augusta Neely, in the twenty-eighth year of her age.

Mrs. Neely was the daughter of the late John F. Mense. She was born in Washington, Mo., May 16, 1848. The greater part of her life was passed in the city of St. Louis, to which place her father moved in her early youth. She was married to her husband, Mr. T. J. B. Neely formerly of Tennessee, Jan. 6, 1870. She died in connection with the Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, having first united with the church in Sedalia, Mo., Nov., 1872. These are the prominent dates and facts in the life of Mrs. Neely. But they do not give us an idea of what her life really was. From childhood her health was feeble. For years she suffered from the effects of a delicate organization. But her sufferings seemed only to chasten her spirit, and to develop a character marked by unusual gentleness and patience and kindness. The sweetness of her daily life is a precious remembrance to her family and friends. As a Christian her experience, though of comparatively short duration, was well matured. The sickness of which she died was of long standing and attended often with great suffering, but never a word of

complaint escaped her lips. She was sweetly resigned to the will of God in all, believing assuredly that He had a gracious purpose in every pain she felt. As she drew nearer to the end, her hope grew brighter, and her faith more simple and assured. She spoke of her departure as a matter of unspeakable delight. She besought her friends not to weep for her, but exhorted them to meet her in heaven. To her husband who expressed a desire that she might die in his arms, she replied she could not do that, it would cause her too much suffering to be moved; but she added, "I am dying in the arms of Jesus". And thus she passed away in the very triumph of Faith.-"Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on His gentle breast." May the Lord bless her sorrowing husband and the dear little one she left, and sanctify this sad affliction to them and to the whole circle of friends who mourn her death. B. The St. Louis Christian Advocate and Western Methodist, please copy.

ObituariesLITTLE FRANCIS M. DUGGER
JOINS HIS "MAMMA".

Where there is no more suffering. Victim of diptheria-With a sweet smile on his face, he gives up the struggle.

At half after ten last night, little Francis Marion Dugger, only child of Conductor F. M. Dugger, died at the Neely House, 575 South Royal Street, from diptheria, from which he had been suffering since Sunday. Nearly four weeks ago, the little fellow had a severe attack of tonsillitis, which was followed by nervous indigestion and then by fever. While he was still suffering from the first complaint, his little cousin, Roy Neely, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omer Neely, who also lived with Mr. and Mrs. Neely, took the diptheria and died in a few days.

Francis was at the time quite ill, but grew better and it was hoped, would soon be well, but a few days since, diptheria developed, complicated with croup, and in his weakened condition he could not stand it, and in spite of all that could be done for his relief, he succumbed to the disease. There is something peculiarly distressing in the death of this little child

upon whom was centered the hopes and affections of his devoted father and grandparents. His mother died in his early infancy, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Neely, have had the care of him ever since.

He was an especially bright child and the joy and sunshine of the household and the object of the tenderest love of his devoted father and of his grandparents, and their grief at his death is deepened, because it is the second time in two weeks that diptheria has invaded their home as the messenger of death, for scarcely were the tears upon their cheeks dried after the loss of sweet little Roy Neely, the only son of their only son, when this second blow fell and the entire community sympathizes with them, as well as the bereaved father and grandparents in the death of little Francis, and the SUN extends especial condolence for the loss of the sweet little first Prize baby of our last winter's Baby Contest.

The burial took place at four o'clock this afternoon in Hollywood Cemetery, where the funeral services were conducted by the Rev. A. M. Hughlett.

Letter from Lt. Thomas F. Ragland to his grandfather, Thomas Springfield,

"Chattanooga, Aug 17, 1863

Dear Grand Pa

As I have an opportunity of writing you a few lines I thought I would do so. I have no news at all, everything is very still at present. I received a letter from home about a week since and answered it immediately. Although it is very probable that you are cut off from visiting our County, therefore I write to let you know that I am well and doing well. I am going to apply soon for a furlough to visit my relatives in North Carolina.

Things here are pretty squally, but all works out good in the end. Food and clothing are both very scarce here, For instance a uniform coat for \$175.00 dollars, boots for \$75.00 and bacon for \$1.00 per pound.

I am inclined to believe, however, that the scarcity is not so great at least I think it is the speculators who run up the prices of articles. All such men ought to be forced in the War. Such men are enemies to our cause and ought to be made to fight or to leave the Confederacy but it is nothing more than could be expected. There were traitors in the Old Revolution and you may expect to find them in the Second Revolution. How are the Chapmans and how are they getting along? Have the Yanks committed any more depredations in and around your county. Have they visited you lately and have you heard from Pa. He says they have visited him several times since I left. I heard from home since Pa wrote last. The Yanks he says took most all the mules he had. If that is the case it leaves him in rather a precarious condition.

Goodbye and write to me and give my love to Grandma.

T. F. Ragland."

Lt. Thomas F. Ragland was killed soon afterward at the Battle of Chickamauga.

LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF JOHN GRIMES, Northhampton, New Jersey

In the name of God, Amen. The sixth day of February, 1744/5, I, John Grimes of Northhampton, County of Burlington and Province of West New Jersey being very weak and sick in body but of sound mind and memory thanks be given to God. Therefore, aware of the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed to everyone to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament. That is to say, principally and first of all, I give my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I give to the earth to be buried in decent Christian burial, at the discretion of my executors, nothing doubting that in the resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God. And as touching my worldly effects, I devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and form:

1. I give five pounds toward furnishing the church near Bridgetown in Northampton;
2. Five pounds for the use of 2 of the township of Northampton.
3. I bequeath to my Couzen Jane Neally all my debts due me in the Province of Virginia.
4. After all my just debts are paid the remaining part I give and bequeath to my brother William Grimes one half, and the other half I give and bequeath to my couzen Sarah Neally, and likewise, make, constitute and ordain my brother William Grimes and Patrick Renolds Executors of this my last Will and Testament.

I disallow, all and every other former Testaments, Wills, Legacies and bequests executed by me, allowing and confirming this to be to be my last Will and Testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

John Grimes

Witnesses: Samuel Woolston, Sr.
John Bishop
John Woolston, Jr.

INVENTORY, JOHN GRIMES

A true Inventory of all and singular, the goods and chattels....and effects of John Grimes, late of Northampton....as the same were appraised the 19th day of August, 1745 by us.

....and apparell	12	10	0
Horse, bridle and 2 saddles	6	0	0
Specialties	5	10	7
A large Chest		0	
A remnant of Camblot	0	18	0
2 books, odd buttons, other small things	0	8	0
An ax, scythe and sickle	0	9	0
Some bottles, vials, etc.	0	2	6
Book Debit	14	14	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	L. 42	S. 7	P. 1
One old piece of a Whip	0	2	0

Samuel Woolston
John Osmond

Samuel Woolston, one of the appraisors of the above inventory, being duly sworn, did..., and John Osmond, the other appraisor of the above inventory, being duly affirmed according to law, did declare and affirm that the goods, ...and credits in the above inventory set down and specified were by them appraised after according to their just and true respective rates and values after the best of their judgments and understandings, and that they appraised all things that were brought to their view for appraisement.

Samuel Woolston
John Osmond

Sworn and affirmed at Burlington
August 20, 1745

Scattergood Surrogate

WILL OF PHILIP PHILLIPS

Introduction, usual form

I give and bequeath to my loving wife, Susanna Philips, possession of my two farms and the land adjoining them which I purchased from Ephriam McLean, Sr., and George McLean for farming her natural life without impeachment of...for the purpose of supporting my wife and raising my children and teaching and educating them as far as her means will answer the end hereby intended. I do give unto my wife during her natural life the following negro slaves: Phylis, her ch Sarah, Sall and Tom and her husband Tom if he can be purchased. If not, she is to have \$300 to purchase one a male slave; farming utensils; stock of all kinds and household furniture as she may think proper which she shall have the use of until my youngest child then living shall arrive at full age, that my children shall be well supported and clothed and educated and in all things be brought up in a decent Christian like manner.

I bequeath unto my son John...two stills equal in capacity with any of those in my distillery with all the utensils I may have for distilling at the time of my death, which may be the same now used by me. If said John chooses to take them, or in case of his refusal, then my Execs. are hereby to pay said John as much money as is sufficient to purchase two stills of equal capacity, this selection John to make whenever he arrives at full age or marries. I also give unto my son John one sum of the value of one hundred dollars, and five hundred dollars to be paid him by my Execs. It is my will and desire that my said son have the use of the still house on my lands...

Item: I give and bequeath to my son James,...the negro man named Luke and five hundred dollars in money...

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter, Eleanor,...one negro woman slave named Lucy and her child named Lydia and feather bed and furniture known and called her bed and, one horse of the value of one hundred dollars, and five hundred and fifty dollars in money and also the increase of the said slaves, to be delivered on her marriage or arriving to full age.

Item: I give and bequeath to my son Joseph, his heirs and assigns forever, \$800.00 to be paid him when he arrives at full age, with interest from the day of my decease.

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth, one negro girl named Betty,...five hundred and fifty dollars in money to be paid to the said Elizabeth whenever she arrives at full age or marries as the case may first happen...

Item: I give and bequeath to my daughters, Mary and Nancy and my son William eight hundred dollars each, to be paid them, each of them as they arrive at full age or marry as the case may first happen...

Item: It is my will and desire that all my children have a good and sufficient education, and...to give any of my sons a classical education, the extra and ordinary expense to be kept an account of, and in the division of my estate shall be deducted from the proportion which the son would otherwise be intitled to recieve;...

Item: Desires that Phillips & Campbell remain under the same direction and management of Michael Campbell, until all matters and things are finally settled and adjusted.

Item: I give and bequeath to Sarah James, orphan child, brought up, or raised by my sister, Elizabeth to her,...five hundred acres of land north of Cumberland R. in State of Kentucky, such as my Exec. & Andrew Haynes deem to be good lands and which the same Haynes is fully authorized to convey to said Sarah James, in legal form.

Item: Lands sold would result in purchase of new lands in the partnership, except if needed to satisfy demands of Will as children come of age.

Item: Property liquidations are to be equally divided as each liquidation is made.

I
Item: And lastly, constitute and appoint my trusted friend and Michael Campbell, of McLean Co., in the State of Kentucky, and Fred Tatum, of the State of Tennessee and County of Davidson, as my lawful Executors. In testimony thereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal to this instrument...by annulling every other by me made and hereunto done this third day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1797.

Signed, sealed and authorized to be the last Will and Testament of the Testor, Philip Phillips, with the sanction of the Execs. therein contained before us.

Philip Phillips

David Loudon, Robert Carruthers, Samuel Hanna.

Will of Elizabeth Rush, Wife of Benjamin Rush, Cheatham Co, N.C.

In the name of God, Amen. I, Elizabeth Rush, of Cheatham County, of the State of North Carolina, being of sound mind and disposing memory do make and ordain this, my last Will and Testament in the manner following,

Item 1st. I commend my son to God and my body to be buried in a Christian like manner.

Item 2^d, I give to my beloved son, Thomas Springfield, one negro girl by the name of Lat.;

Item 3^d, To my beloved son, Benjamin Springfield, two negroes, Peter and Willie and one bed in furniture with three sheats, three counterpins and three bead quilts, and one choice horse;

Item 4th, To my beloved son, Anson Springfield, one feather bead and furniture;

Item 5th, To my daughter, Ruth Christian, one negro girl by the name of Clarinda during her lifetime;

Item 6th, To my beloved daughter, Judith Avent, one negro boy, named Anson;

Item 7th, To my beloved daughter, Elizabeth Purkins, one negro boy, named Warren, and one horse, second choice.

Item 8th, I give and bequeath to my grandson, William Springfield, one negro girl, named Cherry.

Item 9th, I give and bequeath to my granddaughter, Harriet Cox, one negro girl named Fanny;

Item 10th, To my grandson, Anson Cox, one negro boy named Cesor; the rest of my property, both personal and perishable, to be sold and equally divided between all my children, Thomas Springfield, Benjamin Springfield, Ruth Christian, Anson Springfield, Judith Avent, and Elizabeth Purkins.

I nominate Thomas Springfield, Benjamin Springfield, and James Purkin
 Executors of this, my last Will and Testament,...Given under my hand
 seal this 10th of February A.D. 1832. Elizabeth x Rush. Seal
 in presence of: Wm. Avent her mark
 Charity Springfield.

Proved May 1841

SLAVES NAMED in DEEDS and WILLS

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16	Hannibal	124	Malinda	120	Warren
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Copy of Will of Burwell Williams

In the name of God, Amen. I, Burwell Williams, of the County of Beatham and State of North Carolina, being of sound disposing mind and memory, therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die, do make and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament, in manner and form following. First, and-----fully, I commend my soul to God who gave it, asking through merits of my blessed redeemer to inherit life eternal. And as to my worldly estate wherewithal it hath been please God to bless me, I order and dispose of it as follows;

First, as I have given to my son, Thomas Williams, already as much of my property, as both real and personal, as I could spair, in justice to my other children, it will therefore be understood that he is not to share in any part of my estate which I now possess.... Whereby give to him and his heirs forever.

I give and bequeath to my daughter, May Buthol three hundred Dollars out of my estate to her and her heirs forever. I give to my daughter, Charity Buchanan, one chest of drawers to her and her heirs forever.

I give and bequeath to my eight daughters, namely: Sarah Ragland, Martha Snipes, Mary Buttrill, Elizabeth Cross, Jenny Utley, Nancy Springfield, Temperance Hinton, and Charity Buchanan, all my landed estate, estimated at about eleven hundred and seventy three acres, and all my negroes, namely: Dan, Hagus, Charles, Dinah, Angus, Abels, Leane, Pony, Killin, Jude and her first child, her Liley and Annie, with the increase of them and likewise all the residue and remainder of my estate of whatsoever kind, I give to them and their assigns forever, to be equally divided between them, share and share alike. And my wish and desire is that in the division of the negroes, they should go in families in so far as possible with convenience.

Finally, I constitute and appoint my son, Thomas, and my sons-in-law, Thomas Snipes, Joseph Buchanan, executors of this, my last Will and Testament, revoking and annulling all other Wills heretofore by me made.

For witness thereof, I do hereunto set my hand and affix my seal this eleventh day of May in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen.

Burwell Williams SEAL

(Signed and sealed and acknowledged
in presence of us, William Robson
William Snipes.

W.B. "A" p 278-9

WILLIAM NEELEY, Gift Deed to Sarah Neeley Book F, page 319
Maury Co. Tenn.

This indenture made this 25th day of Sept. in the year 1815 between William Neelly of Williamson County & State of Tennessee, to my said daughter, Sarah of Maury Co. & Said State of the first part, witnesseth that I the said William Neelly for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and bear for my daughter Sarah and her Husband Samuel Neeley and the consideration of the sum of \$50, to be in hand, paid by the said Samuel Neeley, both given, set over, and delivered to the said Samuel Neeley and Sarah Neeley his wife, all my right, title interest and claim in, and to the property here after mentioned (to wit) 1 negro slave man, Davy, 1 negro slave man named Jim, 1 negro slave man named Shin, 1 negro slave man named Hannibal, 1 negro slave boy named Tom, 1 negro slave woman called Jenny, 1 negro slave woman called Matilda, 1 negro slave girl called Malinda, also all my house, table and kitchen furniture consisting of a desk, book case, table, chest, chairs, bed steads beds and furniture, pots, pails, ovens, etc. together with all my farming tools, etc. consisting of axes, ploughs, hoes, gear, etc.

The above mentioned property to the said Samuel Neeley and Sarah his wife, their heirs and assigns to their only proper use and benefit and behoof, forever. In witness where of I have here to set my hand and seal the day & year first mentioned above written, signed & sealed & delivered in the presence of John Polk, Evan S. Polk.

William Neeley (Seal)

WILL Nicholas Perkins Hardeman

I, Nicholas Perkins Hardeman, of Williamson County, State of Tennessee, make this my WILL....

Firstly, that my executors, hereinafter named, shall make to Daniel Goodman and Joseph Royal a deed of conveyance for a part of the tract of land which I own in Maury County on Globe Creek, etc.

Secondly, that my executors sell the southwestern section of my land on Globe Creek, aforesaid, etc.

Thirdly, that Thomas Hardeman be permitted to locate, for the use of my heirs, a warrant which I have for 274 a of land, and recieve one-fourth part of the land for his services.

Fourthly, that my son, William, be furnished from time to time, with money to complete his education, not exceeding in all the sum of one thousand dollars, and the sum thus furnished shall be accounted for by him as a part of his portion of my estate.

Fifthly, that the residue of my estate be disposed of according to the mode pointed out by law for intestate estates.

I do hereby appoint my sons, Thomas Hardeman and William Hardeman, and my son-in-law, Thomas H. Perkins, executors of this, my WILL, without security. Done on the 22d day of May, 1818.

N. P. Hardeman

In the presence of: John Hardeman
C. H. McAlister
D. L. Lanier

Which WILL of N. P. Hardeman, was above recited, was produced in open Court at July Session, 1818, and the execution thereof duly proven by the oaths of Charles McAlister and David Lanier, subscribing witnesses thereto, and same was ordered to be recorded.

WILL of WILLIAM NEELLY

I, William Neelly, Williamson County, State of Tennessee, having lived to advanced age, and feeling much debility from disease and infirmity, being of sound and disposing mind and memory and being desirous to make a distribution of my property in such manners as to be most conducive to the happiness and welfare of the family I leave behind, do therefore while in the full enjoyment of the faculties of my mind, make and publish these presents as my last Will and Testament.

Firstly, I wish my executors to pay and satisfy all my just debts and funeral expenses punctually out of the money due me and the sale of my perishable estate as they may deem most desirable for this purpose.

Secondly, I give to the freeborn boy of colour, Dick, who lives with me, my brown or black filly.

Thirdly, I give to my son, James Neelly my watch, the chain, key, etc., belonging to the same, and all my books, pamphlets, etc.

Fourthly, I give to my daughter, Ann Hardeman, my clock and its case, and two good cows and calves.

Fifthly, I give the remainder of my estate of whatsoever kind or description, the same may be, to my affectionate and beloved wife, Mary, during her natural life, and at her decease I bequeath such part of the same as may remain unimpended by her to my son James Neelly and my daughter Ann Hardeman, to be equally divided between them by three discreet men of Williamson County, or by themselves as they or either of them may wish.

Lastly, I nominate and appoint my son, James Neelly, of Henderson County, my nephew, James Neelly, of Williamson County, and my grandson, Thomas Hardeman, of Franklin, executors of this, my last Will and Testament, and request that no security be required of them or either of them for the discharge of the trust herein reposed. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal, this 21st day of February, 1827.

William Neelly (SEAL)

The State of Tennessee. Williamson County Court, April Term, 1827. The Last Will & Testament of William Neely deceased is produced in Court for probate, the execution thereof proven through James Neely and Andrew Craig, subscribing witnesses thereto being sworn, say they believe said testator was of sound and disposing mind at the making and publication of said Will, and under no undue influence, ordered that said Will be recorded. Whereupon, Thomas Hardeman and James Neely, two of the executors nominated in said Will, appear in open Court and renounce the burthen of the execution of the same. Bk 4 p. 203.

William Neely Inventory, July Session, 1829. WBk 4, p. 440

An Inventory of the estate of William Neely, deceased, returned to the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Williamson County by James Neely, his executor:

1 grey horse, 1 pr black oxen;
 4 cows and calves, 5 yearlings;
 1 old waggon and some gear, 2 prs. of gear;
 Old irons, chains, sythe and cutting knife;
 3 plow irons, 4 hoes, 4 axes, 1 old handsaw;
 4 chisels, 1 gouge, 3 augers, 1 mattock, 1 sythe;
 1 old reap hook, 2 pots, 1 old oven, 1 pot hook;
 2 pails, 1 wash noggin, 1 old chest, 3 chairs;
 1 small table, 1 pair brass candlesticks;
 1 shovel, 1 shotgun, 1 bed and furniture;
 1 log chain, 1 grindstone, 1 cotton wheel;
 1 flax wheel, ? lb. bacon, 2 pot racks;
 1 chamber pot, 1 teapot, 1 sythe anvil;
 1 old jig, 1 old brier sythe, 1 old ladle;
 1 broken pocket flask, 1 pair stretchers;
 3 clevises, 1 iron wedge and 1 foot adze, all of which have been delivered over to Mary Neely.

Articles sold:

1 pair oxen, 36 head of stock hogs, 2 cows w pigs, 12 sheep & 8 lambs,
 1 crop-out saw, 1 broad axe, 1 crowbar, 1 old reel, 1 Portmanteau,
 120 bbls corn, 120 fodder and oats, 27.2 lbs. bacon, 1 bbl salt. Acct
 of Garner McConnico for seed cotton delivered at his gin; total \$305.37.

Jas. Neely, Exec.

State of Tennessee.

Williamson County Court July Session 1829

WILL OF BENJAMIN RUSH

In the name of God; I Benjamin Rush, of Chatham County and State of North Carolina, being Sick, and infirm of body; but of sound mind, and memory, doth make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in the following manner -

First I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth Rush during her natural life the following negroes, Dick, and Venus, my usual bed, bedstead and furniture her side Saddle and Bridle my natural pacer Colt, called (Cate) one large Walnut Chest, and a Small Safe to her and her Heirs forever. Also, a proportional part of my personal estate during her natural life and the real Estate during Widowhood.

2. I give & bequeath to my son William Rush my Ivory Headed Cane;

3. (I give and bequeath) to my Daughter Ann Peyton the sum of five Shillings current money of the State of No. Car.;

4. (I give and Bequeath) unto my Daughter Alice Devany the sum of five shillings, No. Car. Currency;

5. (I give and bequeath) unto my Daughter Elizabeth Terrel the sum of Five Shillings No. Car. Currency;

6. (I give and bequeath) unto the Children of Susanah Brooks the sum of Five Shillings No. Car. Currency.

7. (I give and bequeath) unto Francis Waddle the sum of five shillings No. Car. Currency.

8. (I give and bequeath) unto Mary Williams the sum of five shillings No. Car. Currency.

9. (I give and bequeath) unto Amy Stringfellow the sum of ten pounds Va. Currency.

10. I give and bequeath unto my son Benjamin Rush the land I now live on in Chatham County,...to him and his Heirs for ever.

11. Residue and remainder of my estate both real, and personal, to be equally divided between my wife Elizabeth, and my three Daughters, Ruth, Judie, and Elizabeth,

Lastly I appoint my beloved wife Elizabeth Rush my Executrix and my son William Rush and my friend Thomas Stokes to be my Executors of this

my last Will and Testament. In Witness I Benjamin Rush hath hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 29th day of April in the year of our Lord Christ One Thousand Eight Hundred and One.

Signed Acknowledged
and published in
presence of

X The words to her and her heirs
forever was interlined before
Signed.

Thos. Stokes
Hardy Wheless
his
Allen X Rains
mark.

Benjamin Rush (SEAL)

I have many reservations as I close my typewriter case.

Much more can be learned of these families from extant records that I have not found time to examine. And some errors will be found. I shall appreciate having them called to my attention for a possible newsletter to the owners of this book.

I am especially desirous that members of the respective families will be inclined to pursue the Neelys in Penn. and New Jersey; the Phillips in Kentucky, the Springfields in N. C. and possible Virginia; the N. P. and Anne Neelly Hardeman descendants who are not well enough researched at this time.

I have come to know and to love many of this great family; many who have gone before us and, more important, many now living who have given me aid. To the latter, I would say, "The God whose truth has been a shield and buckler in the past, continues to show His love and mercy to all generations of them that love Him. May you be ever conscious of the obligations of your heritage."

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