

To the Graduate Council:

We are submitting a thesis written by Ursula Lee Smith entitled "A Literary History of Montgomery County, Tennessee." We recommend that it be accepted for six quarter hours' credit in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts with a major in education and a minor in English.

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A LITERARY HISTORY
OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

A thesis submitted to George W.

The Graduate Council
of Austin Peay State College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

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by

Ursula Lee Smith

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CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

If the school is to serve as a depository of local resource material it should have available data on the contribution of its citizens to the cultural life of the community, the state, and the nation.

This study is premised upon the dual concept of school service to the community and community service to the school.

A. The Setting of the Study

The setting of the study is Montgomery County, Tennessee, which is located on the northern border of the state of Tennessee; this brings the county in close proximity to that part of Kentucky known as Christian and Todd Counties. Had the boundary of the western lands of Virginia and North Carolina been extended along the latitude of $36^{\circ}30'$, as was intended, the northern part of Montgomery County would now lie within the state of Kentucky.

The location of the county has had a marked effect upon the life of the people. Their philosophy of conduct and their ethical values have been affected by their proximity to a "border" state, Kentucky. This has been true in the field of politics as regards Republicans and Democrats even more than was true in the period of anti-slavery and pro-slavery

feeling. In the latter the two states shared alike in having a divided popular opinion.

The history of the community indicates the sturdy character of its pioneers who braved the wilderness trails by land and water to reach the unknown, uncharted sweeps of a distant region. Their forebears were from the settled sections of North Carolina and Virginia; before their generation there had come those stalwart seekers for freedom, the Scotch-Irish and English emigrants.

The stock from which these men had sprung gave vitality and a type of constitution which made family-life a foundation within the new settlements; these were not migrant hunters and trappers, they were men of courage who with their wives of equal courage and stamina overcame the misery of loneliness and distance from their loved ones, met the ever-present dangers of Indian warfare, of disease and disaster, and reared their children with a respect for God, for man, and for self. There was, of necessity, strong family and community discipline, for there was little contact with the accepted forms of government administered at such a great distance across the mountains in the "Mother State," North Carolina.

In fact, the Clarksville Compact is rated the fourth independent form of government in the early history of the land which was later to bear the name of Tennessee.

The land itself had its part in developing the individual's philosophy of interdependence of man and nature. This is a

part of one's philosophy as is true of man and God, and man and man.

This land was fed by the many sparkling streams of water flowing ultimately into the two rivers, the Red and the Cumberland. These small streams provided attraction for buffalo, deer, and other game as well as proving attractive to those migrant Indians who used the "happy hunting grounds" long abandoned by the Shawnees whose early claims had been invalidated by the successful attacks of their enemies among the other tribes bordering on the middle area of the Tenase.

The land with its rolling hills offered fertile valleys awaiting the clearing of trees and stumps to become farmland. Its hillsides provided timber for ultimate use in the making of homes. Its soil varied from the deep rich soil of the northern part of the county to the shaly, gravelly soil of its southern borders. Its wild life was as varied as its native trees. Nature offered of her bounty to those who would seek and would labor to extract it from her stores.

The material growth and great variation in degrees of wealth and want found in an agricultural area, which for years was a one-crop (tobacco) community, has affected the social, cultural, and economic life of the people within this section.

The evidence of literacy, of intelligence, and of education is present in the early court records; many of the earliest accounts are not available within the records of the

Montgomery County courthouse, for those therein date back only to 1796 when Tennessee became a state. Previous records of the period when this was a county of North Carolina under the successive names of Washington County, Davidson County, and Tennessee County have long ago been removed from the locality.

As education in the wilderness was necessarily a home-pursuit and responsibility, one is interested to note the list of titles of books in the disposal of early property. It is of significance when one notes that in the settlement of the estates of these early settlers much deference is shown toward the awarding of the family Bible to the widow or to the eldest son of the deceased.

Later, as the land had been cleared and more time was available for cultural pursuits, the erection of private schools provided for the needs of those able to attend. Schools for girls as well as schools for boys offered boarding facilities as well as "day" services. These were not always located in the larger towns but were at other places in the small communities where children from the nearby area could be instructed in the womanly arts which led to matrimony and in the manly pursuits which led to higher levels of education, even to college in Clarksville in the early 1840's.

Out of this cultural and literary background grew the need for newspapers, of which Clarksville has had many. The present Leaf-Chronicle carries the banner of "Tennessee's

Oldest Newspaper -- Established In 1808." Clarksville was a primitive community in 1808 with a desire for information of the outside world.

The churches, through their individual histories which endow the church with the personality of its pastor, become a source of record. The early church records of births, deaths, and marriages reveal that services were conducted here before 1800.

These early personal, public, and church records reveal the manner in which the interests of a community demonstrate the activities and philosophy of the people of the period.

Continued recordings in all forms of printed matter inform us of the years from 1796 to the present; the era of Montgomery County.

B. Purpose of the Study

Against the setting of this study the purpose may be seen. The purpose of the study is to locate and to analyze the literary production of the residents of Montgomery County.

To accomplish this purpose it is necessary to divide the study into four parts: 1. Factual Prose, 2. Fictional Prose, 3. Verse, and 4. Conclusions and Recommendations. Each of the three literary areas is to be subdivided into its proper fields. The fourth section, Conclusions and Recommendations, will present the uses and adaptations of the material in the Social Studies and English departments.

C. Assumptions

The basic assumptions of this study are as follows:

1. That the instructional program in the Social Studies and the English departments of the public schools and college should have available to its instructors and students certain materials which heretofore have never been compiled and arranged.

2. That these materials concerned with accredited writers and the reports on same shall be made available for the merit which lies within them and the effect which they might have in stimulating further research.

D. Limitations

This study is to determine the work in the literary field of those writers who felt the impact of association within this county. It seems wise to limit the discussion to those whose writing bears the mark of this association.

The limitations therefore are

1. The printed literary productions of residents of Montgomery County.

2. The manuscript or typed literary productions of residents of Montgomery County.

The writers may be

1. Native to the county.
2. Students in its schools.
3. Residents in later life.

This report does not consider the innumerable times in which the name of Montgomery County or the names of its citizens occur in print. The study is limited for several reasons: the long history of this rather important county would indicate that its records would be very extensive; such a record of mere reporting of events within the county would entail not only much research into the past and present writing of its citizens but also of historians and journalists outside the area. This is true because of the national as well as local significance of many individuals who were born or who resided within the county.

E. Methods and Procedures

After the overall problem had been determined, the methods of gathering and handling the data were considered. The procedures presented here have been selected because they seem to offer the most effective manner of gathering and arranging the data.

In preparation for this study the writer was enrolled in courses in the Education and English departments at Austin Peay State College. As a part-time instructor in Tennessee History in the same institution the writer obtained much of the historical material used hereafter in this report.

Much reading was done in the library at Austin Peay State College, the Clarksville library, and personal libraries.

Theses in the Austin Peay State College library and in the Joint University Library at Nashville were read and reviewed.

Material was obtained through interviews and correspondence with writers, their families, or their friends.

The organization of materials into the three main literary divisions and subordinate sections was facilitated by acquaintance with the literary selections and their types.

Certain conclusions were verified. A person who does this type research is better fitted for it:

1. If he has lived within the community for a long time.
2. If he has had cultural contacts with local families.
3. If he has personal acquaintance with the author or with his family or friends.
4. If he has a wide reading range in the local resource area.

The printed materials, personal interviews, and personal letters which served as interviews were found to be better means of obtaining information than any questionnaire which might have been devised. This data is so individualized that a survey-questionnaire would be of little value in obtaining the desired information.

F. Organization

The remainder of this study is organized into chapters as follows:

Chapter II.	Factual Prose
Chapter III.	Fictional Prose
Chapter IV.	Verse
Chapter V.	Conclusions and Recommendations
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CHAPTER II

FACTUAL PROSE

Factual prose is a record of the activities of man, past and present. Its purposes and forms vary, contingent upon the individual and the material he desires to present.

The letter and journal are personal documents of events in which the author was a participant and which he wishes to share with others.

The biography requires extensive research and understanding of the events and personalities of the era. It must be written in a manner that will attract and sustain the interest of the reader. The autobiography is more rare, being based upon the high value attached to one's own life or exploits. This may be to perpetuate self-esteem or to inform one's posterity of its heritage.

History is a record of the past which one evaluates from a point of vantage following the fulfillment of a course of events. The historian must guard against personal opinion, must weigh fact and truth, must analyze carefully all data in the light of the contemporary scene.

Personal attitudes are evident in oratory, for oratory is basically self-expression of one's beliefs when challenged by opposition expressed or anticipated. Convictions must be defined and presented. Oratory has some of the elements of

poetry in that it may be presented in a rhythmic pattern, ever rising to a point where speaker and listener are as one in belief through the emotion of the hour.

Journalism may partake of some of the qualities of oratory, but through reason rather than emotion is the goal of conviction reached. Facts and opinions printed may be reviewed and analyzed; therefore, there must be an appeal to rationalization and logic rather than to the emotions. The successful journalist expresses his beliefs through a medium which tends to enlarge the circle of believers.

Religious materials are basically records of events accepted by faith. Skill is required in presenting old dogma in new form. Controversial ideas seldom win advocates. The reader of religious materials often reads for substantiation of his belief rather than for expansion into new areas of doctrine.

The author of a textbook finds satisfaction in condensing and arranging a multitude of facts in an orderly manner for the elucidation of youth. He has cultivated the ability of detecting facts overlooked by others and of recognizing new relationships in old facts. A satisfactory combination of factual material and mode of expression leads to a successful product.

Factual prose may take the form of statistical reports, of analysis, of essays of literary and critical types. With

the exception of the essay it might be said that factual prose deals with the past as a completed fact analyzed and evaluated by an individual who is honest in his convictions.

A. The Letter

Introduction: In the heritage of a people we find latent qualities which become active when expressed in word and in deed. Among the qualities of the Anglo-Saxon there predominate a parental concern and filial devotion as well as a resiliency in the face of adversity.

In the intimate hours of companionship there may not be evidence of one's concern for another's welfare as would be expressed in correspondence when loved ones are parted.

Perhaps, aside from the diary or personal journal, the letter is the most personal, the most intimate of all forms of literary expression. The writer may have only the reader in mind when the letter is being written; its personal and intimate qualities are not devised for the public eye; its composition is not analytical; its contents are more meaningful to the recipient than to the public who may chance to see the letter.

Letters

1. As an example of the parental concern for one's young -- the youth who had ventured into the wilderness uncertain of safety at the side of his father -- we read the letter from Valentine Sevier to his brother John. Here we find all the pathos of the Biblical patriarch weeping for the loss of his children.

Clarksville, December 18th, 1794

Dear Brother: The news from this place is desperate with me. On Tuesday, 11th of November, last, about twelve o'clock, my station was attacked by about forty Indians. On so sudden a surprise they were in almost every house before they were discovered. All the men belonging to the station were out save only Snider and myself. William Snider, Betsy, his wife, his son John and my son Joseph were killed in Snider's house. They also killed Ann King and her son James, and scalped my daughter Rebecca. I hope she will still recover. The Indians have killed whole families about here this Fall. You may hear the cries of some persons for their friends daily.

The engagement commenced at my house, continued about an hour, as the neighbors say. Such a scene no man ever witnessed before. Nothing but screams and the roaring of guns, and no man to assist me for some time. The Indians have robbed all the goods out of every house, and have destroyed all my stock. You will write our ancient father this horrid news; also my son Johnny. My health is much impaired. The remains of my family are in good health. I am so distressed in my mind, that I can hardly write.

Your affectionate brother, till death,

Valentine Sevier¹

Colonel Valentine Sevier had come from the eastern mountains to take a claim on Red Paint Hill, now New Providence. A deed in the Montgomery County courthouse reveals that he purchased 640 acres in the northeast fork of Red and Cumberland Rivers in July, 1792.

Adventure in the wilderness had now become tragedy: three of his sons had been massacred by the Indians in January prior to the land purchase; now he had lost another son, Joseph,

1. W. P. Titus, Picturesque Clarksville, p. 14.
Clarksville: Titus, Publisher, 1887.

and a daughter, Betsy Snider; another daughter, Rebecca, had been scalped; he now needed the son, John, who had remained in the east.

His wife was not mentioned in the letter; needless to say she was saved, for her purchase of the family Bible is confirmed by the record of the settlement of his estate following his death, February 23, 1800.² The Montgomery County Court record of August 18, 1800, discloses that for fifty cents the widow redeemed the "large Bible" and for ten dollars her son John obtained his father's "blunder bush." These were the smallest and largest prices of the sale, exclusive of livestock. What a life of adventure and privation to end with the note: "Final due to administrator . . . \$6.32."

2. The letter of parental concern is a fulfillment of the training in filial devotion, for as the twig is bent so is the tree inclined. Even though Woodrow Wilson did not maintain his residence within this community, he was a visitor at times in the home of his parents. His father, Dr. Joseph R. Wilson, who had come to head the new School of Theology established at Southwestern Presbyterian University in 1884, continued to live in the community until 1892.³

2. Austin P. Foster and Albert H. Roberts, History of Tennessee Democracy, Vol. I, p. 107. Nashville: Democratic Historical Association, Inc., 1945.

3. Waller Raymond Cooper, Southwestern at Memphis, 1848-1948, p. 72. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1949.

The sudden death of Mrs. Joseph Wilson at the Clarks-ville home on April 15, 1888, caused her son to make a sorrowful journey to be with his family at this place. To his wife, who had remained in Baltimore, he wrote, on April 19:

The home of my whole life is broken up forever -- father's home gone -- the house standing, within a block of where I sit writing, closed, empty, desolate: because my precious mother is dead. . . .

As the first shock and acute pain of the great, the irreparable blow passes off, my heart is filling up with the tenderest memories of my sweet mother, memories that seem to hallow my whole life. . . . If I had not lived with such a mother I could not have won and seemed to deserve -- in part, perhaps, through transmitted virtues -- such a wife.⁴

A short time later he wrote to R. Heath Dabney:

. . . my dear mother suddenly died. . . . Your letter came while I was away with my poor bereaved father in Tennessee. . . . My mother was a mother to me in the fullest sense of the word, and her loss has left me with a sad, oppressive sense of having suddenly lost my youth. I feel old and responsibility-ridden. I suppose that feeling will in time wear off, however, and that I shall ultimately get my balance again.⁵

As the Christmas season drew near he wrote to his father the letter which has been chosen for sale in photostatic form by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation at his birthplace in Staunton, Virginia.

106 High St. Middletown, Co [nn].
16 December, 1888

4. Ray Stannard Baker, Woodrow Wilson, Life and Letters, p. 35. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1946.

5. Ibid., pp. 294-295.

My precious father,

My thoughts are full of you and "Dode" all the time. Tennessee seems so far away for a chap as hungry as I am for the sight of the two men I love. As the Christmas recess approaches I realize, as I have so often before, the pain there is in a season of holiday and rejoicing away from you. As you know, one of the chief things about which I feel most warranted in rejoicing is that I am your son. I realize the benefit of being your son more and more as my talents and experiences grow. I recognize the strength growing in me as of the nature of your strength. I have become more and more conscious of the hereditary wealth I possess, the capital of principle, of literary force and skill, of capacity for creating in my own children that combined respect and tender devotion for their father that you gave your children for you. Oh, how happy I should be, if I could make them think of me as I think of you! You have given me a love that grows, that is stronger in me now that I am a man than it was when I was a boy, and which will be stronger in me when I am an old man than it is now -- a love, in brief, that is rooted and grounded in reason, and not in filial instinct merely -- a love resting upon abiding foundations of service recognizing you as in a certain sense the author of all I have to be grateful for. I bless God for my noble, strong, and saintly mother and for my incomparable father. Ask Dode if he does not subscribe? And tell him that I love my brother passionately.

We have had about three months of continuously bad weather here and are proportionately "under the weather" with various forms and degrees of colds; but fine cold days have come at last and we are one and all getting on our feet again. Will get used to this villainous climate by-and-by, doubtless. I have been wondering whether the Burney house is snug and dry in winter. I sincerely hope the rigors of the Clarksville weather may not get at you in it. We are expecting Ellie's cousin, Mary Hoyt, to come up from Bryn Mawr to spend the holidays with us. Ellie joins me in unbounded love to you both.

Your devoted son,
Woodrow

Many letters passed between the father and son, for Dr. Wilson remained in Clarksville, and "Dode," Woodrow's brother Joseph, was a student at Southwestern Presbyterian

University. A few months later Dr. Wilson wrote to Woodrow:

Clarksville, Tenn. Mar. 6, '89

My Precious Son --

Your most welcome letter came to hand on yesterday. I would have written you, as a break to the long silence, had I been sure of your address -- but it was not known in this part of the earth whether you were in M. or in B. There is one thing always sure, however, and this is that you are hour by hour in my thoughts and upon my heart: -- and what is just as certain is, that you deserve the place which you occupy within the house of my soul. How, in my solitude, have I longed for the presence of that dear son in whose large love I trust so implicitly and in the wealth of whose gem-furnished mind I take such delight: him in whom my affections center as my child, and my confidences as my friend. . . .⁶

Such satisfaction a father has in the son who reflects the training, inspiration, and affection known in the home of his youth!

3. As one grows old one evolves a philosophy of life that is personal yet is of itself so sincere as to be provocative, becoming a stimulus to others. How else can one read the lines and between the lines of such a letter as that of Martha McCulloch-Williams to Edwin R. Smith, a young friend in Clarksville?

New York: Feb. 16th, 1931

Dear Edwin, when my shower of letters came before my last birthday I told myself yours would be the first answered. And at this late day I am keeping my word, albeit my jinx is working over-time. Can't write another till I get more envelopes -- can't do that until somebody comes in, as I can't walk a step.

6. Ibid., pp. 40-41.

Reckon you heard all about the big fire -- came out of it with just two garments, plus a pair of sometime dancing slippers. Am much better off now -- but not as chipper as I might be. Soon as the hose stopped playing the unemployed got busy -- swarmed up fire escapes -- and looted as they listed. Luckily I had paid my fire insurance that very day -- so shall get a small come-back in money, but no salvage of household goods.

Pretty trying -- when you're in a squirrel's jump of 84 -- and have been bed and chair fast. Consoling to think it can't last over-long -- not much beyond the birthday I do sincerely hope. Seems to me such an economic waste to keep living, eating food, occupying space that might be much better filled -- but I don't whine:

"Beneath the buffetting [sic] of Fate. My head is ~~is~~ bloody but unbowed."

. . . Would like to come back to mine own country if there was only somebody willing to take the burden of looking after me. My helplessness makes it a real burden -- I may get to walking again. My great desire is to get through my remnant of days as pleasantly and as easily as I can. Dorothy Dix is anxious for me to be there among mine own people -- but I see no chance of such luck. Financially I would be no burden -- but money is not everything -- except in boarding houses -- which do not in the least appeal to me. So am leaving things on the knees of the gods, and the hearts of my friends, finding comfort in the fact that whatever happens can not last beyond endurance.

Make a fresh start tomorrow. . . .

Faithfully Your Ancient Friend:

Martha McCulloch-Williams⁷

Martha McCulloch-Williams, possessed of such high spirit as to meet infirmity, age, and loneliness on a plane of humor and optimism, lived beyond the "squirrel's jump of 84," and continued her writing until her death in 1934 at the age of eighty-six.

4. The letters of parental grief and concern, of filial love and devotion, of the sage philosophy of the aged

7. Letter from Martha McCulloch-Williams to Edwin R. Smith. Letter in collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

are only parts of the correspondence which prompted and succeeded in the establishment of the government lines of mail service linking sections of the community and the nation. Little did these early out-riders of communication realize that it would be a Clarksvillian, Cave Johnson, who would become the first Postmaster General, appointed by President Polk to this new post in his cabinet.

When the Federal troops were knocking at the portals of the South, it was Cave Johnson who felt that it was incumbent upon himself to leave for his children a record of their ancestry and a biography of himself. The letter, begun on January 10, 1862, and concluded after the fall of Fort Donelson on February 16, 1862, comprises ten printed pages in Picturesque Clarksville (pages 289-301). It concludes in this manner:

I have thus given you a brief statement of our family relations and connections from my recollection in the midst of the excitement and turmoil produced in our town by the battles of Fort Henry and Donelson. If I survive the invasion of our town, which is now hourly expected, I may add some reflections as to my life, which may enable you to avoid some of the errors of my life, the greatest of which, I think, was ever engaging in politics, though more successful than most others.

Cave Johnson⁸

All of his children having joined the Confederate forces, he had moved into the home of his step-daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Forbes. When the surrender of the city of Clarksville

8. Titus, op. cit., p. 301.

was imminent, it was he and the mayor who planned to give it into the hands of Gen. U. S. Grant that bleak day in February, 1862.

A few days later, March 2, 1862, Johnson wrote to the Hon. R. H. Gillett of New York:

I have, as you know, always been a Union man, and violently opposed to secession, and was selected as the Union candidate in my old district because of my long and determined hostility to nullification and secession, and secured a unanimous vote in it. (This was before the war.) I would have spent my last dollar in its defense and cheerfully yielded up my life for the preservation of the Union, but when I saw the President and Congress had set aside the Constitution, and under the tyrant's plea, necessity, that all security for property was gone; the habeas corpus suspended; citizens arrested and imprisoned without warrant upon the suspicion of the Secretary or other inferior officers; public trial refused; the civil authorities made subordinate to the military; martial law declared by their generals, under which I am now writing and for which I would be sent to Fort Warren if deemed of sufficient importance. I could not but believe that our people acted rightly in seeking protection elsewhere than in such a Union.⁹

This letter quoted from Gillett's Democracy in the United States reveals the consideration that had been given the idea of a union of the South and England and France, an issue in the early days of secession.

The youngest of his three sons, Polk Grundy Johnson, was captured at Fort Donelson, and was sent to Camp Douglas at Chicago, Illinois; it was there that the father visited his son. He arrived after visitors had been forbidden entrance to the prison, and would have been denied a visit had

9. Ibid., p. 301.

it not been for orders of Gen. Halleck. Johnson spent two days with the prisoners of war.

5. Many of the troops at Fort Donelson were men from Clarksville who on that ill-fated occasion were surrendered by their officers and were taken into the North to languish in prison camps until such time as the troops were exchanged. The letter from Thomas H. Smith is typical of the attitude of the young Confederate prisoner concerned with his family and friends, and ever hopeful of the eventual exchange of troops.

Camp Douglas
Chicago Ill. April 18, 1862

Dear Bro.

Yours of 25th ult. came to hand a few days ago -- all right -- I was glad to hear from your and Mothers families. I have not written to you earlier because I knew not that the mails reached your county, nor have I any thing interesting to send you now. We are comfortably quartered in barracks built for Federal troops, formerly used as a camp of instruction, and are kindly treated by the officers guarding us. The health of the prisoners is now much better than it was at the first of our imprisonment. Severe colds contracted during the fight at Donelson and on the trip to this place, with the great change in climate, caused a great deal of sickness and many deaths among the Rebels, there are now over 7000 of us here -- over 2000 having lately come in from Island No. 10. All the commissioned officers were sent to other places, the field officers to Fort Warren and the company officers to Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio. We hear from our captain often he and Fons are well. We have here 63 men of our company -- have lost two since being here -- one of whom -- Stephen Hackney -- you knew. Bill Turnley and Miner Wisdom are with us, and are in good health. I have recd. two letters from my wife since being here. Dr. Cooper and Hon. C. Johnson spent two days with us last week. They brought letters for most of the boys from Clarksville. Others are getting letters through the mails. You must write to me on Receipt of this, and often. We are all anxious to get away from here but can have no idea of the length of

our imprisonment. I must close as we are required to write short letters. My Love to Mother, Sister, all relatives and friends and for you and Yours receive the continued regards of

Yours Affectionately

Thomas H. Smith

Accept my thanks for your interest in the welfare of my family. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.
yours T. H. Smith¹⁰

Smith and other men from Clarksville, including Polk G. Johnson, were exchanged at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in September, 1862. They fought throughout the war, saw the end of the conflict, and returned to their families in Clarksville.

6. Cave Johnson's three sons surrendered with Lee at Appomattox; being one of those excepted under the amnesty proclamation of the President, he applied to President Andrew Johnson for pardon. The pardon was granted August 19, 1865, and he, with his sons, took the oath of allegiance to the United States government.

The Clarksville Weekly Chronicle of November 30, 1866, carried the final word on the life of this true statesman:

Because of his poor health and advanced age, he was allowed to live behind the Union lines after the capture of his home, and the long months were filled with loneliness and hardships for the old politician. . . . On Nov. 23, 1866, the old politician died in Clarksville and was buried with Masonic orders "in the presence of a large crowd, from all quarters."¹¹

10. Letter from T. H. Smith to his brother William D. Smith of Elkton, Kentucky. Letter in collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

11. C. L. Grant, "The Public Career of Cave Johnson," p. 195, Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. 10 (Mar.-Dec. 1951).

In an impassioned account of the sacrifices of the war years and of the futility of blotting out the memories of those days, Polk G. Johnson wrote in 1877:

We are told that memories must be blotted out. No, never. . . . See Captain Thomas H. Smith assuming command of the 49th Tennessee Regiment, after six of his superior officers have fallen? See the colors of the regiment with its flag-staff shot through and thirty-two bullets sent through the flag? . . .

Capt. Thomas H. Smith! The Clarksville boys are not willing to forget Captain Smith (the few of us who are left.) They, like all boys in time of great trouble (in fact, at all times) need a father. When captured at Fort Donelson, and they were carried to Camp Douglas, at Chicago, Ill., he was a father to them, and closed as brilliant a career as any man might be proud of, being shot through the neck at Franklin, in the very fiercest struggle of the battle; and being made a prisoner, did not recover till long after the war.¹²

In war and in peace, letters have carried their message of parental concern, of filial devotion, and of resiliency to adversity; out of the past they shed light upon the present and give meaning to the future. Montgomery County has enjoyed its share of the inspiration of great letters.

12. Titus, op. cit., p. 104.

B. The Journal

Introduction: Early travelers through the Tennessee country found evidences of the Indians and of such of the white men as had preceded the travelers. Accounts of such events were recorded in journals of surveyors, churchmen, explorers, and early pioneers.

As neither De Soto nor La Salle came into the Cumberland country, and as most travel was by way of the Mississippi, we find no account of the Cumberland area until the eighteenth century records; much, however, had been written of the Tennessee river valley from the headwaters to its confluence with the Ohio.

Excerpts from Journals

1. James Smith's Account, first published at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1799, reveals that he and his companions passed by the Clarksville site in 1767.

We also explored Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, from Stone's River down to the Ohio. . . . Stone's River is a south branch of Cumberland, and empties into it above Nashville. We first gave it this name in our journal in May, 1767, after one of our fellow travellers, Mr. Uriah Stone, and I am told that it retains the same name unto this day.¹³

2. Thomas Hutchin's Surveys report the finds of his survey of the Cumberland River from its mouth upstream past Nashville.

13. Samuel Cole Williams, Early Travels in the Tennessee Country, p. 204. Johnson City: The Watauga Press, 1928.

The original manuscript, "Courses of the Shawanoe (Cumberland) River from the mouth upwards," is deposited with the Pennsylvania Historical Society.¹⁴

Comments opposite calls for course and distance are worthwhile in determining local facts. As he neared the present city of Clarksville he records:

S. 50 E. 160. Hills still appear larger. Current Gentle.

S. 85 E. 40; S. 60 E. 60.

S. 45 E. 160. All this Course Ridge close on Lt. [Left] -- about $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile from beginning of course on Lt. is a very large Red place, appears like Brick in the Ridge and affords a kind of Red Paint -- on the Right a little below the Red Rock is a Creek 10 yds wide -- bottom on Rt. [Right]

S. 35 E. 120. At the end of the course is the Forks of the River; here the River is near 400 yds wide -- the Left hand branch is 100 yds wide. The other branch is as wide as the River. The course of the Left hand branch is N. E. upwards; here the Ridge on the Lt. looses itself; this branch is 3 miles to where it Forks, the south Fork the largest. The land between the Forks does not overflow. Its banks are high and upright.¹⁵

These lines of his journal were inserted as he approached the site of New Providence, the Red River, and Clarksville, and as he passed upstream toward Cheatham County. A portion of Hutchin's Map, 1778, shows Red Paint Hill, the local terrain, and the tributaries of the Shawanoe (Cumberland).¹⁶

3.-4. A Dr. Connolly and another surveyor, a Mr. Nicholson, had been in this country at different times and

14. Ibid., p. 213.

15. Ibid., p. 224.

16. Ibid., p. 209.

had reported their findings. Their accounts interested George Washington, who was ever alert to the desirability of a section of land.¹⁷

5. Journal of a Voyage, written by Colonel John Donelson, concerns the journey of the settlers from East Tennessee to the Cumberland Settlements. The first notation is that of December 22, 1779, as they took leave of Fort Patrick Henry, the present site of Kingsport. After an eventful voyage of several months, filled with danger, privation, suffering, and loss by disease and Indian warfare, this band aboard the more than thirty boats, headed by the Adventure, reached the mouth of the Cumberland. This was on Friday, the 24th of March, 1780.

Proceeded on quietly until the 12th of April, at which time we came to the mouth of a little river running in on the north side, by Moses Renfroe and his company called "Red River", up which they intended to settle. Here they took leave of us. We proceeded up Cumberland, . . .¹⁸

6. Memoranda of a Journey, the record of Louis Brantz's account of the Cumberland country, contains references to this locality.

The Cumberland River. . . When it is high, or even tolerably high, it is navigable for more than four hundred miles, . . . Its waters are said to be the quietest of all the western rivers. . . . No navigable streams discharge themselves into the Cumberland. The only considerable ones

17. Ibid., p. 227.

18. Ibid., p. 241.

are the Little River, the Red River, and the Harpeth. Between the embrochure of the Cumberland and Nashville, there are some white settlements.¹⁹

7. Andre Michaux's Travels, made up of accounts of several journeys into the Tennessee region prior to its statehood, is remarkable for its interesting data on plants and animal life of the area, and for the account of the journey upstream in January, 1796:

Sunday 10th of January the River fell 4 feet during the night. Continual Rain and Snow. Passed Yellow Creek 16 Miles before reaching Clark's ville. Passed Blowing [sic] grove 13 Miles before reaching Clark's ville. Rocks and Hills. Passed Dixon Island 10 Miles before reaching Clark's ville and at present the most remote Settlement of Cumberland territory. This settlement consists of fifteen families who established themselves here three months ago. The chief place of this settlement is called Blount'sborough or Blount's ville.

The 11th. Rained all the previous night and a portion of the day. Passed by a chain of Hills and by a rock called Red painted rock on the right side of the River that is to say on the north bank of the river 2 Miles from Clark's ville. Afterwards passed by the red river whose mouth is likewise on the north side and a quarter of a mile from Clark's ville. Finally arrived at Clark's ville.

The 12th of January 1796, remained at Clark's ville on account of the river rising.

The 13th Doctor Brown of Carolina who had come to found this new town Blount's borough 10 Miles above Clarks ville, was at the latter place.

The 15th bought a horse at the price of one hundred Dollars.

The 16th departed; my horse ran away and I caught him 6 Miles from Clark's ville at the Mill, 10 Miles.²⁰

19. Ibid., p. 284.

20. Ibid., pp. 336-337.

Clark's ville, bearing the name of General George Rogers Clark, had thus become a place of importance to travelers on the Cumberland River. Blount's borough was later to become the port of entry, Palmyra.

Because of their historical importance early journals of surveyors and frontiersmen are now published. However, the unpublished journals kept by the early settlers are seldom available for study. Practically every family kept a journal of expenditures, of family records concerning vital statistics and family lore. Facts about farm life -- the weather, crops, animal husbandry, and related data -- were a part of the record of the day.

8. - 10. Records were kept by travelers to and from the community. The region attracted many ministers during the great religious revival of the early nineteenth century. Records and reports were kept by such prominent ministers as Reuben Ross, Elder Barton W. Stone, and Lorenzo Dow, who was perhaps the most spectacular and widely-traveled minister of his time. Accompanied by his wife, Dow was in Clarksville in 1814 prior to his going to Europe where he was quite a sensation.²¹

11. - 12. Many diaries and journals were kept by those members of Montgomery County families who went "West" to St.

21. W. P. Titus, op. cit., p. 191.

Louis or to Texas during the period of westward expansion. The period of the War Between the States provided reason for the keeping of diaries and journals by the troops in the field and in prison. Such an account by R. B. Tarpley, Sr., is in the possession of Mr. Lynwood Tarpley; it is quite worthy of publication. However, the personal journal and memoirs of Mr. John Hurst was published in a limited edition by his daughter, Mrs. Austin Peay.

Other journals or diaries are considered so personal as to make it inadvisable to print because of the revelation of personal problems and opinions.

Knowledge of the past, of the people and their lives, is worthwhile. Such reports are valuable and significant, and worthy of publication. Attics and old trunks and desks may hold the secret to interesting revelations; one fears the fetish of house-cleaning and of the bonfire as families abandon the old homes of a community rich in historical lore.

C. Biography and Autobiography

Introduction: Men have ever been ready to recognize and to give credit to the skills and exploits of others; thus we find in biographies those human interest accounts which capture our attention.

Authors

1. James Ross, who was born in 1801 and who died in 1878, wrote a biography of his father Reuben Ross which was published posthumously in 1882. This volume reveals intimate details of life in North Carolina which led to the decision to leave home and friends and to set forth upon that trail which led to the Cumberland.

The 6th of May, 1807, was set for the commencement of the journey, on which day all were to meet at a deserted Episcopal church in a pine forest West of Williamson, and there pitch our tents for the first time. Several other families had concluded to emigrate with us. Among these was that of our uncle, Charles Cherry. In those olden times, the emigrant that left Carolina or Virginia hardly ever expected again to see those from whom they parted, especially if somewhat advanced in years. The great distance, intervening mountains and rivers, the difficult roads and the cruel savages that roamed in and around the new country, forbade the indulgence of this hope. They parted much as those do who part at the grave.

The children and the negroes that were along kept up our spirits pretty well by thinking and talking about Cumberland, the name of the beautiful new world we were to find at the end of our journey. We loved to hear the word pronounced, and when journeying on toward it, if a stranger asked us to what parts we were going, we answered proudly, "To Cumberland." We always lost heart though a little when told there were no shad or herrings, chincapins, huckleberries, or pine knots to kindle fires with in this beautiful country. The negroes made

a serious matter of the pine knot question, and thought the lack of those a great draw back to any country, however blest in other respects -- even on Cumberland itself.²²

2. - 3. A. V. and W. H. Goodpasture, proud of their heritage, wrote an interesting biography of their father.

In the biography of Jefferson Dillard Goodpasture, by his sons, A. V. and W. H. Goodpasture, it is said that after his admission to the bar in Overton County, he made a tour of the southern counties of Tennessee and north Alabama "singing geography," as well with a view to replenishing his almost exhausted means as for the purpose of prospecting for a location in which to practice his profession.²³

4. Seldom does a father record the life of his child, but the memorial by J. B. Killebrew after the death in 1895 of his two-year-old daughter Meta is fraught with pathos. In his own words he reveals: "I wrote a little memorial of her which was published by Rand-McNally and Company of Chicago."²⁴

J. B. Killebrew is also author of a biography of the great railroad industrialist who contributed so much to the development of Tennessee. The Life of James C. Warner²⁵ is a result of intimate association of the two men, both interested in the progress of the state of Tennessee.

22. James Ross, The Life and Times of Elder Reuben Ross, p. 91. Philadelphia: Grant, Faires, & Rodgers, 1882.

23. Will T. Hale and Dixon L. Merritt, History of Tennessee, p. 271. Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1913.

24. J. B. Killebrew, "Recollections of My Life," p. 297. Clarksville: 1896; typed 1950.

25. Lucian Lamar Knight, editor, Library of Southern Literature, Vol. 15, p. 239. Atlanta: The Martin & Hoyt Co., 1910.

5. One professional writer in this category as biographer is Allen Tate. Known for his work in almost every literary field, Tate was early recognized for his outstanding biography Stonewall Jackson, published in 1928. This in turn was followed by a biography of the controversial and little-understood Jefferson Davis. Only recently, Tate has added to these two Southern figures of history a third, Robert E. Lee. Thus after more than a score of years he has given to his readers the third man revered by the South and accredited with influence throughout the nation.

Of the second of these biographies H. S. Commager says:

Mr. Allen Tate's portrait -- it can be called a biography -- is a strikingly thoughtful and artistic work. It is a study of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, for with the earlier Davis Tate is not concerned. His study then becomes to a large extent a re-interpretation of the Civil War and the role Davis played in that tragedy. It is a study that must excite the admiration and the wonder of the more professional historian. There is about it an extraordinary freshness, a veracity, a sureness that none of the other biographers of Davis, with the exception of William E. Dodd, have.²⁶

6. The biography, John Brown: the Making of a Martyr, by Robert Penn Warren received favorable comment in spite of the manner in which he handled the controversial central figure. As a Southerner he has been accused of being biased in his concepts of the leading character, but F. L. Robbins reports on the workmanship:

26. H. S. Commager, New York Herald Tribune, Book Section (September 29, 1929), p. 26.

Robert Penn Warren shows the diligence of research, the desire to reach a general audience, the care for details of background and chronology which have become familiar in the work of many young writers who find biography a stimulating and profitable field of effort.²⁷

7. W. P. Titus has presented biographies filled with genealogical, social, and economic facts of more than one hundred and fifty citizens of Clarksville. Many of these individuals were living at the time of publication of Picturesque Clarksville in 1887.

8. Will T. Hale as co-author with Dixon L. Merritt prepared biographies of approximately two hundred citizens of Montgomery County. These are printed in History of Tennessee, an eight-volume commentary on the entire state. As they are neither alphabetized nor organized as to counties the individuals are not easily identified as citizens of this area.

9. The autobiography of a citizen of Montgomery County is seldom found. Personal recollections are seldom recorded in print. As one grows older and looks back upon his years of activity he evaluates his actions, seeks a listener, and entertains those who are free to share his leisure. He may be reluctant to impose upon others his ideas, his thwarted hopes, his unfulfilled dreams.

Fortunately J. B. Killebrew left a family and personal record in manuscript which has been typed and bound in two

27. F. L. Robbins in Outlook (November 13, 1929), p. 153.

volumes. These pages, 685 in number, are filled with regional, personal, and cultural information, an ideal source for research into the domestic and political life of this notable figure of Tennessee.

The preface unfolds his intent in writing these pages:

These recollections of my life are written for my children in moments of rare leisure and without time for revision or careful correction. They are not intended for the eye of the public. The time has not yet come when any part of them should be published. . . .

I trust that my posterity may always be actuated by the highest principles of truth, honor, justice, wisdom, morality and religion. Money floats many worthless persons but it cannot give character or intellect.

With a deep love for all my children and with a hope that no one of them, or their descendants, will ever be guilty of anything if living would humiliate me or cause me to bow my head in shame, I commend them to their country and to God.²⁸

28. Killebrew, op. cit., p. 1.

D. History

Introduction: The history of a community is given factually in records and documents of the courts, churches, educational institutions, and fraternal orders. Many residents, descendants of soldiers of the Revolution, live upon land originally granted to those defenders of usurped freedoms. From family records and family lore much may be learned.

There have been many accounts of events which have occurred in this interesting section of Tennessee. Seldom has a county contributed more to its state than has Montgomery County, and this fact has been recognized by historians since the Clarksville Republic was formed in 1785. At that time a convention was held for the purpose of determining what the settlers should do relative to a form of government following the cession act of North Carolina. "They appointed a 'court' and asserted their right to make laws not repugnant to those of Congress. And this tiny republic, smallest of all the Tennessee republics, maintained its position for about two years."²⁹

A complete history of this area has never been written. Certain historians have recorded particular events and occasions; books dealing with Tennessee history and the War Between the States contain many references to incidents which occurred

29. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 118.

within this community.

Historians

1. Albert V. Goodpasture, eminent historian and former clerk of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, was co-author with William Robertson Garrett of History of Tennessee, a well-written and comprehensive record of the state prior to 1900.

Earlier, Goodpasture had written a History of Overton County, 1875; it was upon this thesis that his Master's Degree was authorized by the University of Tennessee. This history of his native county was later followed by a record of his adopted county, Early Times in Montgomery County.

William E. Beard stated: "Historical research and writing were to him, not simply hobbies, but sources of recreation at which he never wearied."³⁰

His interest extended into the early days of the Indian, and his authoritative Indian Wars and Warriors of the Old Southwest appeared in serial form in the American Historical Magazine.³¹

A. V. Goodpasture, a thorough investigator and most competent historian, in his "Paternity of Sequoyah," advances the contention that, after his hunting trip, Gist (Nathaniel) went to the Cherokee town on the Little Tennessee River and

30. William E. Beard, "Biography of Albert Virgil Goodpasture, 1855-1942," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. 2, p. 57. March 1943.

31. Ibid., p. 56.

there formed a temporary alliance with a Cherokee maiden in 1760-61, the result of which was the birth of the great Sequoyah.³²

In 1903 Goodpasture contributed eighteen pages of data, "A Dictionary of Notable Tennesseans," which appeared in the American Historical Magazine of April 1903.

Many other articles have come from the pen of Goodpasture. Widely read were the reports on the "Founding of Clarksville" as they appeared in the local newspapers in May and June, 1934, at the time of the celebration of Clarksville's sesquicentennial.

2. Dr. Gene Juneau Morrow, at the time of the sesquicentennial, compiled the very interesting Historical Notes for publication in the local newspaper and in booklet form.

3. Will T. Hale, former member of the Clarksville Bar, was later co-author with Dixon L. Merritt of the comprehensive eight-volume History of Tennessee. This history contributes much information of the period prior to statehood, records the events after that time, and has several volumes of biography. Included in the biographical sketches are those of approximately two hundred men and women of Montgomery County. Unfortunately these names are not arranged in alphabetical order, nor are they designated by counties. Only a complete reading or a familiarity with the names of the

32. From Chronicles of Oklahoma, Vol. I, p. 121, quoted in Tennessee Historical Society, East Publications, No. 5, p. 44. Knoxville: 1933.

individuals could contribute to identification with the local scene.

4. There are many brochures and articles written concerning the War Between the States and the activities of the various regiments mustered from this county. One of these volumes, A History of the Confederate Monumental Association, combines elements which first caused these men to dedicate their lives to the fight for freedom of decision and later to accept the responsibilities left to the living.

A land that could forget her own sons who, at a former day, responded to her call and lost their lives in defense of principles then held dear, is a land whose people must be intrinsically base. And if the cause for which those sons contended perished with them then the failure to cherish their memories becomes doubly dishonorable, for then the fame and good name of the dead must rest alone in the keeping of their survivors, and those who once shared their convictions. Upon these it devolves as a sacred duty to defend the lost cause against traducers, to uphold the motives of their fallen comrades, and to transmit as worthy of emulation the story of their virtue, their courage, and their sacrifices to posterity.³³

. . . There was one duty, however, which in the opinion of the survivors and of the people of this community took precedence even over this obligation to build an enduring monument to the dead. It was to provide for the destitute widows and children of those who had fallen. Bravely our people undertook this work. They were themselves impoverished. The cruel experience of the war had deprived many of them of their homes and of the means with which to make a living. The battered survivors of the conflict were in many instances maimed for life or found themselves at the end of the war shattered in health. No pensions awaited these brave men. No friendly government extended to them its protection. . . .³⁴

33. A History of the Confederate Monumental Association, p. 11. Clarksville: (n. f.), 1893.

34. Ibid., p. 19.

These are perhaps the words of the secretary of the Confederate Memorial Committee, Micajah H. Clark, who had served as the last acting Treasurer of the Confederacy. Clark, the personal friend of Jefferson Davis, had served as chief and confidential clerk to Davis, the President of the Confederacy. In later years Davis was a frequent visitor in the home of Clark as when en route to visit his birthplace at Fairview, Kentucky.³⁵

5. Mrs. Caroline Meriwether Goodlett, early resident of Montgomery County and founder of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was one of three ladies authorized to write the history of that organization. Three years later, in 1909, this fifty-two page booklet was published.³⁶

6. The First Century of Library History in Tennessee, 1813-1913, by Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, records the contribution of Mrs. Lula B. Epperson of Clarksville. Mrs. Epperson as state librarian, 1901-1903, purchased the first steel files to house the new card catalogue, and in her report she attached an informative history of the state library and the laws governing it.³⁷

35. Charles M. Meacham, A History of Christian County, 1780-1930, p. 213. Nashville: Marshall and Bruce Company, 1930.

36. Tennessee Historical Society, East Publications, No. 20, p. 120. Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1948.

37. Tennessee Historical Society, East Publications, No. 16, p. 17. Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1944.

7. Robert T. Quarles, native of Montgomery County and son of James M. Quarles the noted jurist, became a member of the Tennessee Historical Society in 1871. He was its librarian in Nashville for many years and has justly been called "the father of the present 'Archives System of the State.'"38

8. Personal recollections provide interesting material for study and interpretation. Among the interesting booklets is that of G. H. Slaughter, Stage Coaches and Railroads. The recollections turn back to 1847 when Mr. Slaughter found employment in a Nashville book store for a salary of \$75.00 a year.

Later as agent and operator of the stage lines out of Nashville he obtained the information recorded in this booklet. One of the sixteen lines operating out of the city was the Clarksville-Hopkinsville line of which he reports. These were four-horse coaches, carrying the United States mails, and making three trips per week each way. The distance to Hopkinsville was seventy-six miles; the trip required about twenty hours. The fare from Nashville to Clarksville was \$4.00, and from Nashville to Hopkinsville was \$6.00. Beyond Hopkinsville the lines extended to the Ohio River towns with fares being at a similar mileage rate.³⁹

38. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 1841.

39. G. H. Slaughter, Stage Coaches and Railroads. Nashville: Hasslock and Ambrose, 1894.

Mr. Slaughter adapted himself to the changing times; he became associated with the N. C. and St. L. Railroad and had the distinction of selling the first railroad ticket in Nashville.⁴⁰

9. History is made by men in the medical profession, and the record of those deeds is often hidden in medical reports. However, S. R. Bruesch has recorded the early activities of a great physician and surgeon who served this community during his later years. Of Dr. Daniel F. Wright as instructor in the Memphis Medical College and of the many papers and demonstrations given by him much has been written:

Dr. Wright was a prolific writer of scientific articles: fourteen have been located between the years 1852-1860, his Memphis period. They cover a wide range of subjects but the most interesting are his articles on medical education.⁴¹

Dr. Wright moved to Nashville in 1859 where he became editor of the Nashville Medical Record. In 1861 he was appointed surgeon of the Fourteenth Tennessee Infantry and joined the Montgomery County troops who were in Virginia at that time.⁴² Following the war, as a resident of Clarksville, he "gratuitously bestowed his professional skill and attention upon the inmates of the [Tennessee Confederate Orphan] Asylum."⁴³

40. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 1443.

41. S. R. Bruesch, M. D., "Early Medical History of Memphis, 1819-1861," p. 64. The West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, 1947-1950, No. II, 1948.

42. Titus, op. cit., p. 118.

43. Ibid., p. 77.

10. The history of a community would be incomplete without a record of the educational institutions of the area. Published reports have recorded the early educators in the city and county, but it remained for Waller Raymond Cooper to compile an amazing history of the institutions of higher learning.

W. R. Cooper, Chairman of the Department of History at Southwestern at Memphis and a lifelong student of Southern history, reviews that institution and its predecessors in Clarksville.

Of the service, strength, and stability of Southwestern Presbyterian University at Clarksville the preface states:

The plans of the founders of Southwestern Presbyterian University had been bold, vigorous, and enlightened. That they could not be carried out fully at Clarksville was due to the very conditions of Southern life that war and defeat created. The history of the college until its removal to Memphis is, at first glance, the depressing chronicle of failure: failure due to economic distress, to recurring panics, and to a tendency toward obscurantism in the Church itself.

But it would be an error to read the history of those decades merely as a record of failures. The handicaps under which the college operated can be explained by "natural" causes: natural both in the theological and in the human meaning of the word. What cannot be so explained is its success in surviving at all. This is attributable to the remarkable vitality of the institution, . . . It is difficult to think of anything more typically Southern than this achievement by a small group, not known outside their own community, unaided by funds from Northern foundations, but determined to work as individuals in the rebuilding of the cultural life of their area.⁴⁴

44. Cooper, op. cit., pp. 1-11.

11. A former student at Southwestern in Clarksville, Shields McIlwaine, is author of that historical and picturesque volume, Memphis Down in Dixie. Of this book Scott Adams stated: "Author's breezy and entertaining style stimulates interest throughout. A worthwhile informal cultural history."⁴⁵

In the bulletin from Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service one reads of this volume, "A vivid, appealing portrait which captures the reality and charm of the city and its people."⁴⁶

McIlwaine is also author of The Southern Poor-White, a history of the poor-white in literature from the time of William Byrd to the present.

In The Southern Poor-White there is this statement:

In the volume, the author tries to tell the social story of the poor-whites and then to show its literary treatment in different periods. Thus the method employed is social interpretation in narrative form rather than the conventional argument and literary analysis of literary history. Literary considerations have been limited to the changes and additions in period-handlings which cumulate in the complete social portraiture of the poor buckra in literature.⁴⁷

12. The only comprehensive history of Clarksville is Picturesque Clarksville by William P. Titus. This volume of more than five hundred pages contains records and recollections of the early citizenry of the city. There are many pages of biography of figures of the past as well as accounts of those

45. Scott Adams, Library Journal (March 15, 1948), p. 48.

46. Kirkus (February 1, 1948), p. 16.

47. Shields McIlwaine, The Southern Poor-White, p. xxv. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1939.

who were contemporaries of Titus. The Appendix records events of Clarksville and its part in the War Between the States. For reference and research there is no better source of material dealing with Clarksville.

13. A former teacher in the New Providence school, Miss Jewel Nolen, compiled data on that interesting town using many original sources of material in "New Providence and Its Story" (1941). She was fortunate in her choice, for many people interviewed were residents who could recall incidents of the War Between the States and subsequent events. It is to be regretted that other communities have been denied such recognition because of the inertia of their residents.

14. Although a city directory is intended for current interest it becomes history as the years pass. The first Clarksville Directory, 1859-60, contains an extended sketch of the city as written by W. R. Bringhurst.⁴⁸ This early history is probably the first ever printed by a local publisher. However, The Tennessee Gazetteer, published in Nashville in 1834, had presented many facts regarding this thriving river port.

Other city directories and reports have appeared from year to year but it was not until the pending Tennessee

48. W. R. Bringhurst, "Clarksville," William's Clarksville Directory, 1859-60, pp. 2 - 20. Clarksville: C. O. Faxon, 1859.

sesquicentennial celebration that the local historical society considered the publication of a county history.

In 1946 Mrs. P. P. Claxton, chairman of the program committee of the Montgomery County Historical Society, reported that the history of Montgomery County was being prepared for publication although it had not yet come from the press.⁴⁹ Nor has it come into being at this date, 1954.

Perhaps a reactivation of this historical society will be attempted at a later date. It is hoped that this will result in compilation of adequate and appropriate material for a publication commensurate with the quality of service rendered by those residents of the past.

49. Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. V. (June 1946), 189.

E. Oratory

Introduction: The men who came into the wilderness of central Tennessee were not illiterate: they were educated in the manner of men of their time. Education in the classics was out of place in the wilderness, but the growing nation required a depth of understanding of one's fellow man and of the manner of his responses. Pioneer life, far from the central government of colony or state, made necessary a self-reliance and a sense of responsibility that were to produce many statesmen and public servants.

The stump speaker was to replace the orator, and in turn was to be replaced by the professional politician. The limited audience of a century and a half ago, limited by travel-distance and by hearing-area, was to become boundless, for television and radio broadcasts were to provide unlimited audiences.

The skill with which the early orator was able to inform and to convince his hearers was at its height in the deep-toned voices of the jurist and legal lights of the early years of this community.

Orators and Other Political Figures

State Executive, Early

1. Willie Blount, governor of Tennessee from 1809 to 1815, returned to Montgomery County and did not resume practice

of law. "He seems to have taken up farming and writing a history of Tennessee, which was never published."⁵⁰

"Probably no Governor of Tennessee has been more, and generally or more favorably known among his contemporaries."⁵¹ Blount's Catechetical Exposition of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee for use in the schools was published prior to 1804.⁵² As a trustee of Blount College and of Cumberland College (later the University of Nashville) he further demonstrated his interest in education.⁵³ He served as a member of the state constitutional convention in 1834, offering many practical improvements because of his knowledge of the previous constitution. His legislative messages,⁵⁴ when governor, bespeak intelligence, interest, concern and understanding.

United States Legislative

In the legislative branch of the United States government, where the persuasive voices of the representatives from

50. John W. Green, Lives of the Judges of the Supreme Court, 1796-1947, p. 24. Knoxville: Archer and Smith, 1947.

51. Joshua W. Caldwell, Bench and Bar of Tennessee, p. 31. Knoxville: Ogden Brothers & Co., 1898.

52. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 409.

53. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 141.

54. Robert H. White, Messages of the Governors of Tennessee, 1796-1821, pp. 277-441. Nashville: The Tennessee Historical Commission, 1952.

the Volunteer State rang through the halls of Congress, Montgomery County held a claim which she satisfied with her choice of speakers versed in all the elements of oratory and logic.

1. Parry W. Humphreys, elected to represent his district in the Congress for the term of 1813-1815, was the first of a long list of local lawyers who served their nation in its legislative department.

2. He was succeeded in this august body by James B. Reynolds, who was elected for the term of 1815-1817 and again for the term of 1823-1825. An Irishman by birth, an ardent politician, pro-Clay and anti-Jackson, he was known locally as "Count" Reynolds for his courteous manner impressed all with whom he came in contact. However, he was the center of an interesting anecdote concerning Jackson's visit to Clarksville following defeat in the Presidential race against John Quincy Adams.

He [Reynolds] was a life-long friend of Henry Clay, whose eloquence reminded him of the greatest of old Ireland's orators. . . . After General Jackson's defeat in his first Presidential aspiration, he was invited to New Orleans by his political friends, and on his way stopped at Clarksville to partake of a public dinner tendered him by the people. Count Reynolds presided as chairman, and sat at the head of the table, with General Jackson on his right. Before the festivities closed, but after wine had been introduced and the general had retired, the Hon. A. M. Clayton, recently from Virginia, offered as a toast, "The Hon. Henry Clay, of Kentucky, the modern Ahithophel: may his councils be turned into foolishness." The Count, whose glass was filled ready to be drank [sic], and who felt what he had already taken,

immediately emptied his glass upon the floor, and said with emphasis: "Burn me if I drink that toast." The table was in great excitement and adjourned in great confusion.⁵⁵

3. - 4. In the interim between the terms of Reynolds in Congress, there appeared George W. L. Marr, 1817-1819, and Henry H. Bryan of Palmyra, 1819-1823. These men continued in the tradition being established by members of the local bar elected to the Congress. Thus from the year 1813 through 1825, Montgomery County supplied the representative from the district; however, Dickson County sent a representative during the years 1825-1829, only to be succeeded by Montgomery County in 1829-1837 in the person of Cave Johnson.

5. The name of Cave Johnson is known alike in national and local circles. He served well his state and nation, having been appointed to President Polk's cabinet as the first Postmaster General. Gustavus A. Henry wrote of him:

. . . he was the Attorney General for this Judicial District, . . . and was a terror to evil doers. He was always a persuasive, earnest and eloquent speaker, and a hard man to manage, as I chance to know, in debate; and in the conclusion of a case in court or a debate before the people, was almost irresistible.⁵⁶

Johnson, who served from 1829 to 1837, was succeeded by a representative from Robertson County during 1837-1839, but was returned to Congress for three terms, 1839-1845.

6. Lucian B. Chase, law partner of Wiley B. Johnson,

55. Titus, op. cit., pp. 16-17.

56. Ibid., pp. 18-19.

then accepted the stewardship, and served from 1845-1849.

"Though a man of ordinary talents, he was systematic in the plans he laid, and carried them out with vigor, and the evidentially [sic] had his eye upon Congress from the beginning."⁵⁷ Before the expiration of his term in Congress he had married in New York, and thereafter did not return to Tennessee.

7. During the preceding thirty-six years Montgomery County had furnished the Congressman thirty of the years. There now came a decade in which other counties of the district supplied the representative; but as war became imminent a member of the Clarksville bar again was called to serve, this time in the person of James M. Quarles, for the term 1859-1861.

Of the work of Quarles, when judge in the criminal court in Nashville, it has been said, "His work on the Criminal Law in Tennessee is a text book of the highest authority both among the bench and bar."⁵⁸

8. The years following the War Between the States found many local members of the bar at work in their own community, and it was not until John Ford House was elected to Congress for the years 1875-1883 that another local representative served his nation. He was the last of the local representatives; since his term expired there has been no

57. Ibid., p. 29.

58. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 261.

Congressman from this county.

Of his membership in Congress it was said:

While not ambitiously frequent in speech from the floor, from his first effort he always commanded the attention and interest of the body, and his participation in brief current debates was always pointed and forcible. His more formal speeches were always full expositions of the subject, pregnant with thought and suggestion, expressed in vigorous and eloquent diction, and delivered with the animation and fervor of the genuine orator.⁵⁹

House was one of the most eminent orators of his day, serving not only in a political capacity but as a speaker at many commemorative events. Many notable speeches were delivered during his Congressional service; he also delivered eulogies on George S. Houston of Alabama and Benjamin H. Hill of Georgia, who died while members of the United States Senate.⁶⁰

9. To the names of the eight who had served as representatives we add one, James E. Bailey, who was elected to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Andrew Johnson. Bailey served for the years 1877-1881. During his term in the Senate he acquitted himself well.

His speech on the Thurman Pacific Railroad Bill at once placed him among the greatest of the lawyers of that body. His speech in favor of bi-metalism and the restoration of the silver dollar to the currency, was universally regarded as replete with information and unanswerable in its conclusions.⁶¹

59. Titus, op. cit., p. 261.

60. Ibid., p. 262.

61. Ibid., p. 40.

It was the custom of the times that when a man of distinguished ability and virtue died, his friends and the public met to give expression to the emotions of the community. In the Clarksville Tobacco Leaf of January 5, 1886, were recorded the words of Judge Horace H. Lurton in reference to the late Hon. James E. Bailey:

The graphic clearness of his statements, the simple logic of his style, the directness of his aims, the sense of sincere earnestness that he impresses upon his hearers, placed him without the mere graces of oratory fairly among the powerful and successful of speakers.⁶²

Bailey was at the bar in 1850. Of him at that time McKellar has said:

He was then, and continued as long as he practiced, its leader, and to him and Major Henry, Cave Johnson and others the Clarksville Bar was indebted for distinguished courtesy that had made it remarkable throughout the State.⁶³

Tennessee Supreme Court Judges

In State affairs six jurists from Montgomery County served as Judges of the Tennessee Supreme Court. These were Willie Blount, Parry W. Humphreys, William L. Brown, James O. Shackelford, Horace H. Lurton, and William B. Turley. Qualities of oratory required of the judge and the statesman are similar in many respects, but logic rather than eloquence may characterize the report from the bench.

62. Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee Senators, p. 381. Kingsport: Kingsport Press, Inc., 1942.

63. Ibid., p. 385.

1. In April, 1796, Willie Blount was elected by the Legislature as one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity. Apparently the judicial toga did not suit him, for most legal historians record that he resigned the same year of his election and that court records do not disclose any opinion as having been delivered as a Judge.⁶⁴

2. Parry W. Humphreys' service on the Supreme Court bench for the years 1807-1809 brought recognition to him, for his must have been a convincing manner and a skillful approach in time when mediation and compromise were necessary. In 1815, he was appointed one of the commissioners from Tennessee to meet the commissioners from Kentucky to settle the disputed boundary line between the two states.⁶⁵ The error had been made when the continuation of the colonial lines between Virginia and North Carolina had been surveyed erroneously. This commission was unable to effect a solution, but the work done by the commission bore fruit at an early date.

A permanent memorial to this great jurist is found in the name of Humphreys County, established in 1809, whose county seat Waverly was so named because of his fondness for the Waverly novels of Sir Walter Scott.⁶⁶

3. William L. Brown was the son of Dr. Morgan Brown who came from South Carolina in 1796 and settled on the Cumberland River in Montgomery County. Here he founded the

64. White, op. cit., p. 274.

65. Green, op. cit., p. 56.

66. Ibid., p. 57.

town of Palmyra, the first port of entry west of the Allegheny Mountains.⁶⁷

William L. Brown served in the Supreme Court for the term 1822-1824. He had earlier served his state, having been appointed by Gov. McMinn as one of the two commissioners to effect the final compromise with Kentucky to retain the line accepted in the 1779 survey.⁶⁸ It is well that the correct latitude line was not adopted for "This line would have passed south of the town of Clarksville."⁶⁹ Tennessee now required the utmost skill of her diplomatists to obtain the advantageous position she had occupied for many years and to aid her in retaining the vast area, more than 2500 square miles, which had it not been for errors would have been a part of Kentucky. The diplomacy and tact of the commissioners prevailed, and finally on February 2, 1820, the ten-point treaty was effected.⁷⁰

Judge Jo. C. Guild states:

Brown possessed one of the finest intellects in America. In argument and in knowledge of law he was the peer of any man that Tennessee produced. He was the author of the celebrated Statutes of Limitations of 1819 which gave repose to the land titles of the country.⁷¹

67. Ibid., p. 77.

68. White, op. cit., pp. 557-559.

69. Tennessee, Old and New, 1796-1946, pp. 416-417. Nashville: The Tennessee Historical Commission and Tennessee Historical Society, 1946.

70. White, op. cit., p. 556.

71. Green, op. cit., pp. 77-78.

4. James O. Shackelford, Clarksville resident from the 1830's until 1865, was after the War Between the States appointed to the state supreme court. Level headed and even tempered, he carefully weighed both sides of a question before deciding upon a course of action.

A Whig and later Republican, he favored a restoration of the right of franchise to the disfranchised Confederates. On their behalf he presented to the Legislature a petition for relief, signed by four thousand citizens, asking for removal of their disabilities. This in 1868 was denied, but eventually in 1870 an end was put to carpet-baggers and reconstruction in Tennessee.⁷²

5. Horace H. Lurton entered into partnership with Quarles, Henry, Bailey, and Charles G. Smith in 1878 in the Clarksville. "The Clarksville bar at that time was one of the strongest in the State."⁷³ Lurton served in the State Supreme Court from 1886 to 1893 when he accepted the United States Circuit Judgeship for the Sixth Congressional District; this necessitated his resignation as Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.⁷⁴

6. William B. Turley had an early law office in

72. Ibid., p. 161.

73. John W. Green, Law and Lawyers, p. 80. Jackson: McCowat-Mercer Press, 1950.

74. Caldwell, op. cit., p. 390.

Clarksville, but later moved to Memphis. Judge Horace H. Lurton said of him, "Perhaps Turley was the most brilliant judge we ever had." He served on the Supreme Court almost fifteen years, from 1835 to 1849.⁷⁵

United States Supreme Court Justice

1. Horace H. Lurton was appointed by President Taft as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. He served from 1910 until 1914 when his death prompted the tribute in the resolutions:

His opinions are characterized by learning, conciseness and lucidity and are convincing witnesses of his justice, wisdom, industry and comprehensive grasp of legal principles and constitute a great and enduring monument to his fame.⁷⁶

The resolutions passed by the Knoxville Bar stated:

"He possessed in the highest degree the combination of the essential judicial qualities: integrity, intellect, and industry."⁷⁷

Federal and Confederate Judge

1. West H. Humphreys, son of an eminent father, Parry W. Humphreys, served his state and community as well as his nation. He was interested, in 1847, in the construction of a railroad between Nashville and Chattanooga, and it was said,

75. Green, Lives of Judges of the Supreme Court, p. 103.

76. Green, Law and Lawyers, p. 81.

77. Green, Lives of Judges of the Supreme Court, p. 216.

". . . he made a strong and earnest speech in favor of building the road and extending it to Charleston."⁷⁸ He served as United States District Judge in 1853 and thereafter for several years.

In 1861, ". . . when Jefferson Davis offered him the position of Confederate Judge for Tennessee, he accepted the appointment without taking the trouble to resign his Federal Judgeship."⁷⁹ For this service under a hostile government, while still in the service of the United States, he was impeached by the House of Representatives of the United States, was convicted and deposed by the Senate.⁸⁰ He had been appointed to this office by President Pierce⁸¹ and was now treated with dishonor by the government he had served so well.

Previous to this service to his nation and to the South he had been concerned with state duties. "Judge Humphreys published from 1839-1851, eleven volumes of reports of the supreme court of Tennessee."⁸²

Confederate Congress

1. In the legislature of Kentucky, 1831-1833, and in

78. Green, Law and Lawyers, p. 22.

79. Ibid., p. 23.

80. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 213.

81. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 390.

82. Ibid., p. 391.

the Tennessee legislature, 1851-1852, was an outstanding personality, Gustavus A. Henry. He served his state later as the first Senator from Tennessee to the Confederate Congress, being elected October 24, 1861.

Of his service to the Confederacy is stated:

After the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and when the Mississippi River was virtually in the possession of the Federal forces, Mr. Davis called upon Senator Henry to make a speech to the people from his high stand-point in the Confederate Congress, for the purpose of inspiring them and raising up their drooping minds in this, the darkest hour of our struggle. This speech he delivered, so powerful, so full of fervid eloquence, that at its conclusion the whole Senate, the Cabinet and the President, who had honored the occasion with their presence, were found in compact group around the great orator, having been drawn, as they said, by an irresistible power from their seats in the Senate chamber. Of this speech Mr. Davis said: "Its reasoning was as powerful as the thundering cataract, and its eloquence as inspiring as the notes of the bugle sounding the charge, when the host is about to join in the battle."⁸³

Prior to this time it was the voice of Henry which had rung in the groves and halls where people had gathered to learn of the events and consequences of the pre-secession days when the fate of Tennessee hung in the balance.

In Clarksville the Hon. G. A. Henry was requested to address the regular meeting of the Southern Rights Association on April 16, 1861. At this time the Hon. J. C. Guild addressed the immense crowd for two hours.

He was followed by Major Henry, and notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, he so completely enthralled the attention of everyone present for an hour and a half, that at

83. Titus, op. cit., p. 37.

times you could have heard a pin drop, and then the pent-up enthusiasm, hushed by his burning eloquence, would again burst forth, and curses, deep, loud, and long, were hissed through the teeth of outraged freemen against the tyrant that would drench the country in the blood of its own citizens.⁸⁴

It was on the evening of this assembly that the first flag of the Confederacy was displayed in Clarksville:

Before assembling at the Court House a number of citizens, headed by martial music and bearing the flag of the Southern Confederacy, had marched through the principal streets, awakening intense feeling wherever they went. This was the first open display of the Southern flag in Clarksville.⁸⁵

The following day a vast crowd assembled on the Public Square to call upon the governor for action now made necessary by the attack upon the Southern states. "Major Henry then addressed the crowd in burning words of eloquence. . . . No pen can describe the magic influence of his soul-stirring words, voice and action."⁸⁶

This enthusiasm for State's Rights was in contrast to his earlier belief, for it was said that:

In 1860 he had addressed audiences in many cities of the North upon the question then distracting the country and absorbing public attention, urging in his most eloquent strains the perpetuity of the Federal Union.⁸⁷

84. Ibid., p. 26. Quoted from the Chronicle (April 19, 1861).

85. Ibid., p. 37. Quoted from the Chronicle (April 19, 1861).

86. Ibid., p. 31. Quoted from the Chronicle (April 26, 1861).

87. John Flournoy Henry, The Henry Family, p. 120. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co., 1900.

O. P. Temple is quoted as having said that Henry was:

. . . decidedly the most delightful orator as well as one of the most elegant men of the state. . . . He was known as the "Eagle Orator", a title which his contemporaries, without exception, say he richly deserved.⁸⁸

Like J. E. Bailey, John House, and Cave Johnson, advocates of Unionism, Henry heartily followed his state into secession. Following the events in Clarksville in April, he advocated the formation of a military league with the Southern states.

When Middle Tennessee speakers came into the eastern end of the state, they were decidedly not welcomed by the Knoxville Whig, which announced that "comparatively few people will turn out to hear Foote, House, and Henry on their speaking tours."⁸⁹

In another issue the Whig announced: "Gustavus A. Henry, Governor Henry S. Foote, and John F. House, all of Middle Tennessee, are now canvassing East Tennessee. . . to convince the people that we should secede."⁹⁰

Of the attitude of citizens of East Tennessee we learn:

These people loved the Union as heartily as they despised the philosophy of the slaveholder and the secessionist; and they could not be induced to renounce their allegiance, even by fire-eaters like William L. Yancey or "eagle orators" like Gustavus A. Henry who were sent among them.⁹¹

88. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 256.

89. Tennessee Historical Society, No. 20, p. 76.

90. Ibid., p. 76.

91. James Welch Patton, Unionism and Reconstruction in Tennessee, 1860-1869, p. 22. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1934.

Thus Henry had served his nation and his state, but of his service to the Confederacy it was stated:

The Confederate Senate was not a place to win renown. The position was highly honorable, but in it no great reputations were made. . . . There were great men in the Senate, but they had little or no opportunity to display or to utilize their abilities, so that to Mr. Henry never came the opportunities for which he longed.⁹²

2. Another of the Clarksville Bar served in the Confederate Congress. After Tennessee had formally seceded and had become a part of the Confederacy, the Hon. John F. House was elected a member of the provisional Congress in which he served until February, 1862, having declined to be a candidate for the permanent Congress. He joined the active forces of the army, but was ordered in 1864 to report for duty as Judge Advocate of the military court in North Alabama, and was there engaged until the termination of hostilities.⁹³

Commemorative Occasions

1. The old Clarksville Bar had held a place of prestige, second to none in Middle Tennessee, in its accomplishments and recognition. A review of the activities of its early members is given in Picturesque Clarksville as this tribute was presented July 4, 1877, by Gustavus A. Henry.⁹⁴

92. Caldwell, op. cit., p. 234.

93. Titus, op. cit., p. 260.

94. Ibid., pp. 15-30.

2. The local newspapers and publications carried in whole or in part many of the dedicatory addresses and memorials.

The Tennessee Confederate Orphanage on the Russellville Road had been established to serve as a haven for widows and orphans of the Confederate dead. On the occasion of the third annual meeting of the advisory organization in 1868, the Hon. John F. House delivered the address which is published in its entirety in Picturesque Clarksville. His first words were

The ladies of Clarksville may well hail this as an auspicious day. Many of the men who perished in the cause that is lost left penniless orphans behind them, to the charity of those in whose behalf they offered up their lives. It was nobly resolved to provide an asylum where the helpless children of these gallant men might find a refuge and a home. . . . Religion and humanity both point to helpless orphanage, and admonish us that we can not ignore its claims without unique reflections here and disagreeable consequences hereafter. . . . But there are additional reasons which address themselves with peculiar force to the Southern people in behalf of the Confederate dead. They are the children of men who died in a cause that had our full and hearty endorsement.

The graves where they sleep are very humble. No government pours out its wealth to gather their dust into magnificent cemeteries, adorned with all that taste and art can contribute to beautify those cities of the dead. In the deep bosom of the wild-wood, where human footsteps rarely tread, many of them sleep the last sleep, with only nature and solitude as companions of their dreamless rest. The birds of the forest sing their morning and evening hymn above their unrecorded graves. No ancestral oak shall ever throw its welcome shadow above their heroic dust, and no monumental marble sentinel the undiscovered spot where their ashes repose. But they have monuments in hearts that are warmer than marble, and homes in memories that will never cast them out. . . . 95

3. A few years later, June 21, 1873, Greenwood Cemetery was dedicated. At that time, after appropriate and impressive ceremonies by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights Templars, uniformed and mounted on horseback, formed a circle on the grounds allotted to the Confederate dead. It was then that the ceremonies of the order took place.

Addresses were made by the Hon. G. A. Henry, the Hon. John F. House, and the Rev. J. B. West, D. D. It is from the address of the Rev. J. B. West that one reads:

We are here today to consecrate these beautiful grounds to our dead. As others have done we would set apart a spot of earth, to hold the "dust that once was love," and engage art and wealth in its adornment. . . . The pearly dawn will spread its rosy light over these white monuments, and leave a blessing behind it. The night and silence will follow, and the moon and stars, with their mellow radiance, will embalm this city of the dead, and will sit beside these silent portals, keeping unwearied vigils, and patiently awaiting the reappearance of the dearly loved and the royal guest of heaven.⁹⁶

4. The Hon. John F. House was invited to speak before other groups:

In May, 1880, at the centennial celebration of the founding of Nashville, he was selected to deliver the oration at the unveiling of an equestrian statue of Andrew Jackson erected on the grounds of the capitol, and in the presence of the thousands assembled on the occasion, he pronounced an eloquent eulogy on the character of the great soldier and statesman.⁹⁷

96. Ibid., p. 94.

97. Ibid., p. 262.

Southwestern Presbyterian University Alumni

Oratory served the purpose of acclaiming the merits of individuals and occasions; it also served to obtain certain objectives of educational advantage. Keen competition for the location of the Presbyterian University aroused not only the trustees of Stewart College but also the citizens of Clarksville. When the board of Directors representing the six Synods met at Memphis on May 14, 1878, Clarksville was chosen as the seat of the university in spite of keen competition from five other localities. This was in part attributed to the ability of the speakers urging this site.

Clarksville had sent its most distinguished leaders; and able speeches were made by Major G. A. Henry, Colonel John F. House, Judge P. W. Humphreys, General W. A. Quarles, and the Reverend J. W. Hoyt on behalf of Clarksville.⁹⁸

Student life at Southwestern Presbyterian University during the seventies and eighties centered in the two literary societies, The Washington Irving and Stewart Societies.

Many alumni who were trained in the literary societies during the early decades after the establishment of the University have testified not only to the thorough instruction received in the class rooms during their stay in Clarksville, but also to the valuable experience gained by them in the serious work of the two literary societies. A surprising number of the alumni trained at Southwestern Presbyterian University during the seventies and eighties achieved distinction in later life.⁹⁹

98. Cooper, op. cit., p. 58.

99. Ibid., p. 77.

Among these alumni were Theodore Brantly, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Montana; Judge W. M. Cox of the Mississippi Supreme Court; Judge John W. Green of Knoxville; Judge Thomas Jennings Bailey, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia; Thomas Watt Gregory, Attorney General of the United States in President Wilson's Cabinet; Preston C. West, Assistant Attorney General of the United States in 1913; William C. Fitts, Assistant Attorney General of the United States during World War I; Senator Key Pittman of Nevada; Congressman Hugh S. Hersman of California; Judge William L. Frierson, Solicitor General of the United States, and many others. Those whose oratorical powers were applicable to the pulpit are too numerous to mention, sufficient to say

. . . that the University furnished one-fifth of the ministers of the Southwestern Presbyterian Church and more than one-third of the ministers of that church in the Southwestern section which the University primarily served.¹⁰⁰

Will T. Hale, the historian, had indicated in 1913 the place of oratory in the American political scheme:

Oratory has become the distinguishing feature of American political life. . . . To excel in writing or speaking one must have time and opportunity to meditate. In other words, he must brood, to incubate fine words and noble phrases. . . . the list of orators in Tennessee grew apace, until the public could indeed "point with pride" to the eloquence of its statesmen.¹⁰¹

100. Ibid., p. 78.

101. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 485.

Perhaps the opportunity for leisure was a privilege enjoyed by the members of the bar in the nineteenth century and denied those of the twentieth. The day of oratory was ended; the political addresses became of less importance; the newspaper, radio, and television entered the homes of the people, and mass assembly was a thing of rarity.

State Executive, Late

1. It was not until Austin Peay occupied the office of governor of Tennessee that the voice of a Clarksvillian was heard again in the executive chambers. In his inaugural address he expressed the sentiment and dedication appropriate to that hour:

"I am determined," he said, "to be the governor of the people, without distinction of class and to administer the trust with justice and courtesy to all. Let us forsake the bitterness of the past; the future beckons us with inviting arms. Its course is laid and its goal is decked with inviting trophies. My prayer is to Providence for strength and vision to keep my faith and to win the race."¹⁰²

Governor Peay as a speaker and writer impressed his public with his sincerity and depth of feeling. "Innately religious, Governor Peay missed no opportunity to show his gratitude for divine guidance. His Thanksgiving proclamations are among the finest of his state papers."¹⁰³

^{102.} T. H. Alexander, Austin Peay, p. 454. Kingsport: Southern Publishers, 1949.

^{103.} Ibid., p. 445.

The Thanksgiving proclamation of 1925, issued November 21 for Thursday, November 26, contained these impressive ideas:

We are indebted for innumerable blessings. These compass the centuries behind us with their heritage of literature, art, science and invention, and all the glorious traditions of the past. And they compass, too, our radiant and uplifted hopes for the beckoning future. Who can value the blessings of life, memory, character, love and friendship which have been bestowed upon us? These never happened through any chance. They witness the touch of a Divine hand. These are the gifts from our Creator.

Aye, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

So, let us pause to praise God from whom all blessings flow. . . .104

Time has taken its toll of the great orators. These were great in their power of persuasive interpretation; now there are many who speak but seldom with clarity, conviction, and the personal sense of responsibility to their public. The era of true oratory is gone; as we look back upon the past and give credit to those who have passed from the scene, we recognize the truth of this expression:

. . . for truthful and appealing are the words of Lord Jeffrey. . . "There is something pious, we think, and endearing the office of thus gathering up the ashes of renown that has passed away, or, rather, of calling back the departed life of a transitory glow, and enabling those great spirits which seemed to be laid forever, still to draw a tear of pity or throb of admiration from the hearts of a forgetful generation."105

104. Ibid., p. 446.

105. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 443.

F. Journalism

Introduction: The persuasiveness of the orator was limited to his personal contact with an audience; frequently such an audience had assembled because of the desire to have one's opinions substantiated or one's doubts clarified. Within such an alerted audience there were those who had assembled to await conviction and to become persuaded to accept a new idea.

However, the journalist of the early day held a more powerful weapon in his hand when he took up his pen to write in glowing terms and convincing manner. He was a power in the community. The editor of a newspaper sought far and wide for adequate and skilled men to serve in the capacity of political editor. Newspapers bore the names of political parties; party lines were drawn taut at all times, political fervor was always at white heat.

Montgomery County was the seat of great importance in the Congressional District; many members of the local bar were fiery orators, many were chosen to represent the District in Congress. The local newspaper aided and served the candidates in elections, as well as in explaining to the constituents the policies and actions of their elected representatives.

Journalists

1. An early newspaper, the Rising Sun, is assumed to have been published as early as 1808 by Francis Richardson, "a man of strict integrity, systematic and painstaking in his course of life."¹⁰⁶

2. The United States Herald was being published at Clarksville in July 1810, by Theoderick F. Bradford.¹⁰⁷ These early publications give rise to the claim of the current Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle as "Tennessee's Oldest Newspaper -- Established In 1808."

3. A copy of the Clarksville Chronicle of Wednesday, January 21, 1818, is printed on four pages of paper eighteen by twenty-four inches in size, with five columns of type. This issue was Vol. IV, No. 33, indicating that this series had begun in 1813. The Chronicle was "printed and published by Wells and Peebles at two dollars a year in advance, or three dollars at the expiration of three months."¹⁰⁸

The Chronicle was made up like a weekly, and printed on coarse white paper in pica (large type). It was the official organ for Robertson, Dickson, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties. The first page held a three-column sketch in the

106. Titus, op. cit., p. 194.

107. Tennessee Imprints, 1793-1840, p. vi. Nashville: The Tennessee Historical Records Survey, May 1941.

108. Titus, op. cit., p. 147.

form of a letter to Lady Besborough, giving an account of the adventures, the wounding and suffering, and the remarkable escape and recovery of her brave son, Col. Pononby, a British officer, on the battlefield of Waterloo. This issue had several columns of Congressional reports on the financial condition of the government. Advertisements of sales of land, merchandise, and slaves are noted. An obituary is printed; fraudulent notes are reported; undelivered letters are advertised. Foreign and domestic news is reported; intruders are warned against cutting timber; lost money is sought; a reward is offered for the return of a runaway Negro. Announcement is made of an Administrator to settle an estate. Many items of a modern newspaper were displayed.

4. The Rough and Ready, a large double-medium paper established here in support of General Zachary Taylor for the Presidency, was published by Messrs. A. and F. Roberts.¹⁰⁹

5. In 1848, the publishing materials of the Roberts' plant were purchased by Ewing P. M'Ginty, editor and legislator. He published the tri-weekly Chronicle, which for lack of patronage was discontinued in about six months. Shortly thereafter he became editor-in-chief of the True Whig, a leading daily published by McKinny & Company of Nashville.¹¹⁰

109. Ibid., p. 196.

110. Ibid., p. 196.

6. R. W. Thomas, editor of the Green River Whig, a weekly published in Hopkinsville, purchased the Chronicle from M'Ginty in June, 1849, and in July took charge of its editorial department. He remained both editor and proprietor until October 1, 1857, when he disposed of this property to Neblett & Grant. He remained with this new organization, serving as political editor until the outbreak of the war, and again after hostilities had ceased he resumed his duties. Following his death on April 22, 1876, a public meeting was held on April 28. At that time an expression of appreciation of his services and respect for his memory prompted formal resolutions.¹¹¹

7. For a brief interval Thomas W. Beaumont served as local editor of the Clarksville Chronicle. Beaumont, educated at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, graduated in 1848 or 1849, but pursued literary occupations rather than the profession for which he trained. He was not admitted to the local bar until 1855. However, he soon began to write for the local newspapers before 1858 when he was invited to become editor of the Nashville Banner, the leading Whig paper in the state. He was a fine writer, a very ambitious person, one trained in law and well fitted for the position of political editor. But, he entered the service of the Confederacy when the opportunity arose and died at Chickamauga.¹¹²

111. Ibid., pp. 198-201.

112. Ibid., p. 28.

8. G. G. Poindexter, who was admitted to the bar in 1852, was an accomplished scholar and writer. In 1857, he was offered the editorial chair in the Union and American, the leading Democratic newspaper in the state.¹¹³ It was singular that two young men from Clarksville should hold such important posts with rival newspapers in Nashville at this critical time.

9. Daniel F. Wright, M.D., was the immediate successor of R. W. Thomas, deceased.¹¹⁴ His services with Neblett & Grant continued until January 1, 1878, when J. A. Grant sold his interest to W. P. Titus. The name of Neblett & Titus continued at the masthead of the Chronicle until J. S. Neblett retired, leaving Mr. Titus as sole owner.

10. W. P. Titus continued to publish the Chronicle, now greatly improved from every point of view. The first Chronicle was printed on a "Ramage" press, similar to the one used by Benjamin Franklin, which has wooden uprights to sustain the bed and platen, while the ink was put on the type by a boy who used large round balls made of some kind of soft fabric, and two impressions on each side of the paper were required to complete the printing. This was one of the presses constructed by Adam Ramage, who came from Scotland

113. Ibid., p. 28.

114. Ibid., p. 201.

to Philadelphia about 1790. The Chronicle was next printed on the Smith press, the invention of Peter Smith of New York. Later the Washington press, the invention of Samuel Rust, was used, and the paper was increased in size. By 1887, a huge cylinder press, with water motor attachment, had been installed to produce the eight-page paper demanded by the growing city.¹¹⁵

11. Meanwhile, other newspapers were established in Clarksville, the Faxon family playing a part in their success. Charles Faxon moved to Clarksville in 1843 from an earlier home in New York state. Here, for a brief period, Faxon published the Primitive Standard, an Episcopal journal, with Rev. James H. Otey as editor. At the same time, Faxon started the Clarksville Jeffersonian, which continued until 1862 under the supervision of three of his sons.¹¹⁶

12. John W. Faxon, one of ten children of Charles Faxon, spent many years in the banking business and received an appointment in the Confederate Treasury Department where he served until he was needed in detecting counterfeit currency being circulated in East Tennessee. Following the war he returned to Clarksville where he combined civic duties with his banking business and served fifteen years as

115. Ibid., p. 203.

116. Ibid., p. 255.

correspondent of the Louisville Courier-Journal.¹¹⁷

He was a man of more than ordinary literary ability and a most fluent orator. His paper, "The Circulating Medium of the Country," . . . was published in full in the Banking Law Journal. His address on Robert E. Lee has become one of the Southern classics. . . . His poetry was of a lighter vein, but showed the kindly generous heart, as well as the versatility of the man.¹¹⁸

13. Charles O. Faxon was employed by his father, Charles Faxon, publisher of the Jeffersonian, the only Democratic paper in this Congressional District. After the fall of Fort Donelson and the surrender of Clarksville, he went to Chattanooga and was employed on the Rebel, later becoming its editor-in-chief. The Rebel was remarkable in that it followed the Western army, issuing its daily editions and selling thousands of copies to the soldiers. It moved from place to place, never missing an edition as the armies advanced or retreated. Following the war, he went to Louisville where his editorials in the Courier urged greater recognition of the fights of the prostrated South. Later, when the Courier merged with the Journal, he returned to Clarksville where he wrote for the Tobacco Leaf until his health failed and death occurred in 1870.¹¹⁹

117. Ibid., p. 256.

118. John Trotwood Moore, editor, Tennessee, the Volunteer State, 1796-1923, Vol. 2, p. 226. Chicago-Nashville: Clarke Publishing Company, 1923.

119. Titus, op. cit., p. 272.

14.-16. The Clarksville Tobacco Leaf was established by M. V. Ingram, February 11, 1869. Mr. Ingram had been interested in the Robertson Register, in Springfield, Tennessee. His move to Clarksville proved to be a wise one. In spite of the already established Chronicle, the new paper became a success. Ingram employed Charles O. Faxon to write the political editorials; later H. M. Doak was employed for this purpose, and he became a partner of Ingram in 1869. This arrangement continued until 1874 when Ingram sold the business to Doak, but a year later Doak sold back to Ingram. In 1880, Ingram sold an interest to Clay Stacker, and a year later Ingram sold his remaining interest to Stacker, who immediately sold the entire business to W. O. Brandon and W. W. Barksdale.¹²⁰

17.-18. The Clarksville Democrat, founded in 1882 by M. V. Ingram and others, was intended as a campaign paper concerned with the controversy of the State debt settlement. The favored side won in the election and the paper continued under the control of Mr. Ingram until 1883 when he sold out to R. M. Hall and B. M. DeGraffenried. This partnership existed until 1884 when Hall sold his interest to DeGraffenried, who employed Mr. Gilmer M. Bell to edit the paper.¹²¹

120. Ibid., p. 420.

121. Ibid., p. 435.

19.-21. Gilmer M. Bell, lawyer and publisher, assumed control of the Democrat in 1883. For a while he was owner of the paper, but sold half-interest to John S. Miller in October, 1885, and the remaining interest the following spring. This was done in order that he might devote his full time to his profession, the law.¹²² Mr. Miller managed the paper all alone until the following year when he sold it to Arthur E. Harris.¹²³

22. The need for a political editor, usually a person from the legal profession, was now becoming of less importance in the small city newspaper. However, Matthew G. Lyle, who graduated from Cumberland University in 1894,¹²⁴ became editor of the old Clarksville Times, one of the Montgomery County papers.¹²⁵ Three years later, 1897, he joined the editorial staff of the Nashville Sun.¹²⁶ Some time later he limited his activities to the legal profession, wherein he served his community for many years.

23. Several local newspapers have flourished for a time, have served their purposes, and have vanished from the

122. Ibid., p. 412.

123. Ibid., p. 435.

124. Gus W. Dyer, Library of American Lives, Tennessee Edition, p. 186. Washington: Historical Record Association, 1949.

125. James L. Gillum, Prominent Tennesseans, 1796-1938, p. 48. Lewisburg: Who's Who Publishing Co., 1940.

126. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 801.

scene. Among these was the Evening Daily Times, owned and published by the Rev. Fontaine D. Daniel.¹²⁷

24.-26. Improved communications have reduced the necessity for political bias in newspapers; the editorial policies now greatly reflect community interests. Only the Chronicle has survived. This was due to the energy and interest of W. W. Barksdale, who at fifteen chose printing as his future profession. After serving as apprentice under M. V. Ingram in the Tobacco Leaf, he, with W. O. Brandon became its owner in 1881. Soon after this, they purchased the Chronicle, consolidating the two under the name of The Leaf-Chronicle in 1891. Mr. Barksdale became the sole owner, publishing at first a weekly, then a semi-weekly, and later a daily paper. Mrs. W. W. Barksdale succeeded her husband as editor and publisher in 1922. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Publishers Association¹²⁸ and was recognized for her journalistic skills.

27. Another woman, whose feet were rooted in Montgomery county soil and whose heart was as big as the needs required of it, was reported to have been the highest paid woman in the field of journalism. Her humanistic reports on sensational trials and her daily columns of advice made her well known.

"I have been through the depths of poverty and sickness. . . . I have known want and struggle and anxiety and

127. Tennessee, the Volunteer State, pp. 15-16.

128. Ibid., pp. 344-347.

despair. . . As I look back upon my life I see it as a battlefield strewn with the wrecks of dead dreams and broken hopes and shattered illusions -- a battle in which I always fought with the odds tremendously against me, and which has left me scarred and bruised and maimed and old before my time.

"But I have learned to live each day as it comes, and not to borrow trouble by dreading the morrow. It is the dark menace of the picture that makes cowards of us. I put that dread from me because experience has taught me that when the time comes that I so fear, the strength and wisdom to meet it will be given to me."¹²⁹

These are the words of Dorothy Dix, born Elizabeth Meriwether, a little bright-eyed woman who weighed less than a hundred pounds. She wrote from a life of experience those words that for more than a half century were read by an estimated sixty million Americans.

She had perhaps the greatest audience, year in, year out, of any man or woman of her day, and a career of a more remarkable range than that of any other American woman. She occupied a unique role as a kind of oracle, and an arbiter of morals and customs, and she helped set the standards of a shifting social scene.¹³⁰

129. Harnett T. Kane, Dear Dorothy Dix, p. 7. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1952.

130. Ibid., p. 9.

G. Religious Publications

Introduction: Religion has played a significant part in Tennessee, for many of its early teachers were also preachers and ministers. The School of Religion at Southwestern Presbyterian University attracted learned theologians to its faculty; many of these men were authors.

Writers

1. One of the early educators and ministers was John Newton Waddell, D. D., LL.D., who was born in South Carolina in 1812. After having served the Southern Presbyterian Church in many capacities he became Chancellor of Southwestern Presbyterian University in 1879.¹³¹ He had been active in the work of the church since 1839, and he found time in his later years to write Memorials of An Academic Life,¹³² an account of his activities in the church and its educational institutions.

2. R. H. Rivers, D. D., distinguished member of the Methodist clergy, was born in Montgomery County, September 11, 1814. He served his church as minister at the age of sixteen, and at the age of twenty launched upon a lifetime career as a religious educator. His volumes, Mental Philosophy and

131. Titus, op. cit., p. 428.

132. Knight, op. cit., p. 450.

Moral Philosophy, were used prior to the Civil War as textbooks in Methodist seminaries for young ladies.¹³³ His later works included Our Young People, Life of Bishop Paine, and a volume of published sermons.¹³⁴

3. The Rev. John B. Shearer, D. D., was born in Virginia in 1832, and became President of Stewart College in 1870. His great success in the teaching of Bible is attested by the three editions of his Bible Course Syllabus. Other religious writing included Hebrew Institutions, Modern Mysticism, The Scriptures, Selected Old Testament Studies, and Sermon on the Mount.¹³⁵

4. Henry Clay Morrison, bishop of the M. E. Church, South, was born in Montgomery County in 1842. Educator and minister, he contributed to religious and secular periodicals. Arrows from Two Quivers was his best known published volume.¹³⁶

5. Robert A. Webb, D. D., born in Mississippi in 1856, became professor of systemic theology at Southwestern Presbyterian University. He was author of an often quoted book, The Theology of Infant Baptism.¹³⁷

133. James Wood Davidson, The Living Writers of the South, p. 478. New York: Carleton, Publisher, 1869.

134. Knight, op. cit., p. 370.

135. Library Files in Southwestern at Memphis (University).

136. Knight, op. cit., p. 313.

137. Ibid., p. 460.

6. The Rev. Arthur E. Whittle, dramatist, author, and rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, published a collection of sermons entitled The Christ of the Dawn. One of these sermons, "Christ on the Beach," furnishes this picture in words vividly appropriate:

The straining at oarlocks, the squeaking of pulleys, the splash of nets being thrust over the side of a dimly-seen fishing boat, tell of a band of men at work.

Overhead, the stars are fast losing their midnight brilliance as ray after ray of light, like burnished spear-points, thrust themselves up between sea and sky in the distant East.¹³⁸

This talented writer was also author of The First Hundred Years, in celebration of the centenary of the local Trinity Episcopal Church. The purpose of this volume is given by the author: "This little book is an effort to recapture the spirit of sacrifice and devotion of our fathers, incorporate it in our own lives, and infuse it in the hearts of our young."¹³⁹

Of the community and the manner in which it met its needs Dr. Whittle states:

While educational institutions, churches, and clubs were of necessity scarce in the community, yet the urge to uphold standards of life as acquired in their former and finer homes kept culture at a high standard. Indeed, it may be said that most of the achievements of the past hundred

138. Rev. Arthur E. Whittle, The Christ of the Dawn, p. 13. Boston: Christopher, Publisher, 1935.

139. Rev. Arthur E. Whittle, The First Hundred Years, p. 1. Nashville: Baird-Ward Printing Company, 1932.

years which have gained for our city a well-deserved reputation for cultural charm, had their inception in the determination of our forefathers to rise above the material handicaps of their day, rather than succumb to them.¹⁴⁰

8. Three local women have written Sunday School lessons and material for youth publications. Longest in service is Mrs. Randall Burchett, Sr., of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

9. Mrs. Anne Cary Cannon has written material for the Baptist Church Publications Board for both the Sunday School and youth publications. Mrs. Cannon now lives in Washington, but she continues to write for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

10. Mrs. Virginia Smith Deaton, native of Clarksville but now resident of Memphis, has written for the Baptist publications for a number of years. Her work is frequently presented for youth programs in dramatic form.

Many churches and denominations have compiled records and histories of their particular faith. These were written by laymen of the community or by heads of the church outside the area. However, those individuals chosen for the listing herein are recognized for the permanence and scope of their works. Their influence has been felt throughout their church in the South.

140. Ibid., p. 7.

H. Textbooks

Introduction: The early settlers of Montgomery County, independent in thought and action, were educated in the manner of their time. For their children they sought to guarantee the same rights, and schools became an early institution in the community.

Learned men and women established private schools for the separate sexes. The early academy, established under state sponsorship in each county, played a vital role in creating and maintaining a literate citizenry. Academies for male and female, and three common schools were operated in Clarksville as early as 1834.¹⁴¹ Early institutions for higher learning guaranteed further cultural growth.

Authors

1. Certainly the earliest school, and that without textbooks, was the "floating school" conducted by Mrs. Ann Johnson, sister of James Robertson. During the winter and spring of 1779-1780, she taught more than twenty children aboard the Adventure as it brought its human cargo of adventurers from the east to the new land of the Cumberland. Clean river sand, placed in a shallow box, presented the primitive field in which the children learned their letters

141. Eastin Morris, The Tennessee Gazetteer, p. 33. Nashville: W. Hassell Hunt & Co., 1834.

and were taught to read and write.¹⁴²

2. Willie Blount, third governor of Tennessee, whose home near Sango has been carefully dismantled in recent years with the idea of ultimate restoration, was an authority on the state constitution. He was author of Catechetical Exposition of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee; this was for use in the schools of the state as early as 1804.

3. Many books were necessarily from the pen of the early educators, for classes were conducted from materials at hand and textbooks were not state adopted. Religious denominations encouraged education of young ladies as well as of young men. This was especially true of the Methodists. Two textbooks used in the seminaries for young ladies were Textbook on Mental Philosophy and Textbook on Moral Philosophy, written by R. H. Rivers, D. D., who was born in Montgomery County in 1814.

4. Educators and ministers associated with the early colleges were men of distinction and excellent education. To them fell the task of preparing textbooks in their particular field. John B. Shearer, D. D., born in Virginia in 1832, had great influence upon the teaching of Bible, for his books on this subject were widely known. As president of Stewart College in 1870 he contributed to its influence through the publication of his Bible Course Syllabus and a

142. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 270.

number of other widely recognized books on religion.

5. George Frederick Nicolassen, educator born in Maryland in 1857, was vice-chancellor and professor of Greek at Southwestern Presbyterian University. He was author of Notes on Latin and Greek, published in 1890, and of Greek Notes, Revised, a later edition.

6. Robert A. Webb, clergyman and educator, born in 1856 in Mississippi, was professor of systemic theology at the university. One of the religious standards of his church is explained in his Theology of Infant Baptism.

7. J. B. Killebrew, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Statistics, and Mines, was author of a number of books used as textbooks and for reference. Among these were the Resources of Tennessee (1874), Tennessee: Tobacco, Minerals, Livestock (1877), and The Grasses of Tennessee (1878). In 1904 as co-author with J. M. Safford he wrote The Elements of the Geology of Tennessee, the authorized school textbook.

8. In 1900, Mr. [A. V.] Goodpasture was the co-author with Captain William R. Garrett of a school History of Tennessee, brought out under the text-book commission proposal of the McMillin administration -- a book which for reference purposes is as good today as the day it was written, and which has a place in every Tennessee library worthy of the name.¹⁴³

9. An earlier judge in the criminal court in Nashville,

143. William E. Beard, "Biography of Albert Vergil Goodpasture, 1855-1942," Nashville: Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. 2, March 1943, p. 52.

James M. Quarles, was author of a work on Criminal Law in Tennessee, said to be "A textbook of the highest authority both among the bench and bar."¹⁴⁴

10. Clyde Pharr, professor of languages at Southwestern (1918-1924) was author of Homeric Greek (1920-1922), The Aeneid of Vergil (1930), and other translations.¹⁴⁵ His translation of the complete Roman Code of Laws is comparable to the King James translation of the Bible, but greater in scope.

11. Charles Lewis Townsend, professor of modern languages at Southwestern (1917-1954), was author of The Cultural Method of Teaching French and seven other volumes listed in Who's Who, 1950-1951.¹⁴⁶

12.-17. A number of textbooks have been written by other members of the faculties of local colleges. In recent years these textbooks have come from the faculty of Austin Peay State College: Chemistry in Action, George M. Rawlins as co-author with Alden H. Struble; "Instructional Handbook in Music," George W. Boswell; "Tennessee Folk Songs" compiled by George W. Boswell with arrangements by Charles F. Bryan;

144. Hale and Merritt, op. cit., p. 1839.

145. Who's Who in the South and Southwest, 1952, p. 588. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1952.

146. Who's Who in America, 1950-1951, p. 2729. Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1951.

A Brief Geography of Tennessee, Harry L. Law; and Reference-Handbook for Institutional On-Farm Training, Haskell C. Phillips and Russell R. Spafford.

18. Philander P. Claxton, former United States Commissioner of Education, was born in Bedford County in 1862 and is largely a product of Tennessee's educational system. However, he has studied broadly in this country and in Europe, and has conducted investigations in many fields.

His entire record is one of steady progression, in which his forward steps are easily discernible, and not only in the educational field but as an author and contributor to educational journals is he nationally known.¹⁴⁷

In 1900 he prepared Grimms' Fairy Tales as a supplement to the First Reader, and in 1911 he was author of From the Land of Stories, a literary supplement for the second grade. He was joint author with James McGinnis of Effective English in 1917 and of Effective English, Junior, published in 1921.

"His has been a stimulating influence for progressive development and accomplishment and his contribution to educational advancement throughout the South is most noteworthy."¹⁴⁸

During his presidency of Austin Peay State College at Clarksville he contributed much to the educational and cultural standards of the community.

147. Foster and Roberts, op. cit., p. 1058.

148. Ibid., p. 1061.

19. Robert Penn Warren, versatile young writer, was co-author with Cleanth Brooks of the two college texts, Understanding Poetry and Understanding Fiction.

A number of other residents of Montgomery County have contributed to the educational field in many brochures, pamphlets, and articles. Such work presents a formidable task requiring great skill and patience and the optimum of accuracy.

John H. Puffer, Union soldier stationed in Nashville during his army term, was admitted to the bar and began practice in Clarksville but later moved to Kansas, from which state he was elected to the United States Senate where he "engaged in the most important and statistical compilation for Congress."

He was the author of Puffer's Tariff Manual (1888), The Tariff, and Americanism and the Philippines.

Formerly president of Clarksville, Captain Ben F. Puffer, captain and clerk, used the nom-de-plume of "Ben F. Puffer" for twenty-five years in his writing of

Clarksville, a Geographical Directory
Clarksville, Mo., 1885. Washington:
U. S. Government Printing Office, 1900.

Clarksville, Mo., 1885. Washington:
U. S. Government Printing Office, 1900.

I. Other Factual Prose

Introduction: There are several authors whose work does not catalogue within the former types, yet they have contributed worthwhile information to their readers in limited fields.

Authors

1. William A. Pepper, Union soldier stationed in Nashville where he studied law during his army term, was admitted to the bar in 1865. He began practice in Clarksville but after four years moved to Kansas, from which state he was elected to the United States Senate where he "engaged in literary pursuits and statistical compilation for Congress."¹⁴⁹

He was author of Pepper's Tariff Manual (1888), The Farmer's Side (1891), and Americanism and the Philippines (1900).¹⁵⁰

2. An early resident of Clarksville, Captain Ben F. Egan, steamboat captain and clerk, used the nom-de-plume of "Buz" for more than thirty-five years in his writing of "Driftwood."¹⁵¹

149. James L. Harrison, compiler, Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1946, p. 1665. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1950.

150. Stanley J. Kunitz and Howard Haycraft, American Authors, 1600-1900, p. 608. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1938.

151. Titus, op. cit., p. 317.

3. Gourmets have long been interested in Dishes and Beverages of the Old South, published in 1913 by Martha McCulloch-Williams.

4. In the field of floriculture there are two rare and valuable books by James Morton, manager of "Evergreen Lodge," the nursery and gardens of Captain James J. Crusman. These volumes, Chrysanthemum Culture for America (1891) and Southern Floriculture, are sought by nurserymen today. 152

5. Margery Wilson, whose childhood and training were influenced by residence in Clarksville, is author of accredited books on charm and etiquette. Her books have intriguing titles and sound advice; among these are How to Live Beyond Your Means, How to Make the Most of Wife, Woman You Want to Be, and New Etiquette, the Modern Code of Social Behavior.

6. Joseph Buckner Killebrew, statistical expert, contributed articles to encyclopedias and was also one of the editors of the Standard Dictionary. 153

7. Harper Leech, journalist and economist, was co-author with John C. Carroll of two books, What's the News? (1926) and Armour and His Times (1938). He wrote The Paradox of Plenty in 1932. Under the pseudonym "Scurator" he wrote

152. Ibid., pp. 280-281.

153. Knight, op. cit., p. 239.

a column on economic subjects for the Chicago Tribune during the years 1923-1928. Leech also contributed articles to the Encyclopedia Britannica and the Britannica Year Book.¹⁵⁴

8. James Mapheus Smith, research analyst in Washington, has been co-author and author of a number of books, one of the most recent being Selective Service and Reemployment.¹⁵⁵

9. S. L. Smith, former superintendent of Clarksville schools and at present Provost Emeritus of George Peabody College, is author of Builders of Goodwill, the story of the state agents of Negro education in the South during the years 1910-1950.

10. Charles Flinn Arrowwood, professor at Southwestern 1920-1923, was co-author with Frederick Eby of two books which have contributed to the educational field, Development of Modern Education and History and Philosophy of Education, Ancient and Medieval. The latter volume is termed "a contribution of marked distinction,"¹⁵⁶ for it is a study of the beginnings in education among primitive people and continues into the time of the renaissance. The section on education in Greece is the most detailed.

11. Samuel Holt Monk, graduate of Southwestern in 1922,

154. Who's Who in America, 1952-1953, p. 1443.
Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1953.

155. Ibid., p. 2256.

156. School and Society (October 26, 1940), p. 52.

is well known for his literary criticism in England as well as in his native land. Sublime, a study of critical theories in XVIIIth Century England, was published in Oxford in 1936; subsequent work has been Anna Seward and the Romantic Poets, A Criticism beyond the Reach of Art, and other books.¹⁵⁷

12. Time and space do not permit adequate coverage of the diverse writing of Allen Tate, Caroline Gordon, and Robert Penn Warren. These three have entered practically every field and have used almost every medium of literary expression.

Allen Tate has for a long time been credited with the writing of thought-provoking essays. His most recent book, The Forlorn Demon, is a collection of essays on the literary imagination delivered as occasional addresses or lectures over a period of six years. Of these didactic and critical essays Delmore Schwartz states:

The criticism of Allen Tate is always interesting and important. This new volume is particularly important because it is his first work of critical essays since his conversion to Roman Catholicism.¹⁵⁸

13. Caroline Gordon has entered the field of criticism in The House of Fiction (1949), a critical anthology of short stories. In this she is co-author with her husband, Allen Tate.

157. Jaques Cattell, editor, Directory of American Scholars, p. 655. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: The Science Press, 1951.

158. Delmore Schwartz in the New York Times (April 5, 1953), p. 5.

14. Robert Penn Warren has also been interested in the critical essay and in essays of other types. His activities with the Agrarian and Fugitive movements gave ample opportunity for such expression. In recent years he has emerged as an eminent essayist.

Other residents of the area have contributed to newspapers and periodicals of every type. Many professional publications have profited by inclusion of such articles. Newspaper columns of travel sketches, book reviews, music and folklore have been printed. Medical, religious, and educational reports have come from the professional leaders of the community.

CHAPTER III

FICTIONAL PROSE

Fictional prose is basically imaginative material treated realistically and printed in paragraph form. It has been said that every man has within his life the material for a novel. Thus out of a man's mind comes that material of which fiction is made. His choice of the medium of expression is relevant to his purpose.

The novel allows for a great extension of time, episode, analysis, and character development. The flow of the narrative must be unchecked by words that are too conspicuous in drawing attention to themselves. The action should be plausible and the characters familiarly natural. This has been summarized:

Paul Valery declares that "neither rhythm, nor symmetry, nor figures, nor forms, nor even a determined composition, is imposed upon it. . . . it is essential (and it suffices) that the flow carry us forward and even make us seek the end, which is the illusion of having profoundly or violently lived an adventure, or else of having come thoroughly to know invented individuals."¹

Of the short story much has been written, for it is basically an American product in its rules that a unified impression must be presented for reading in a brief time.

1. Joseph T. Shipley, The Quest for Literature, p. 355. New York: Richard R. Smith, Inc., 1931.

The drama is another field of fiction, for, though it may be based upon fact, the setting real, and the characters true there must of necessity be dramatic situations which are historically untrue. The skill with which the author presents the plot through action and dialogue rather than through narration determines the quality and success of the production. Only in this manner can the illusion become reality to the viewer or the reader.

Life beyond reality, the other-worldly element, is found in the supernatural which is often a component part of the legend or folktale.

It may be said that the objective of prose fiction is to entertain or to enable the reader to identify himself with a personality projected by the author. Prose fiction is not primarily to convince, to inform, to inspire emulation; it produces transitory emotion and seldom leaves a lasting impression or inspires action.

A. The Novel

Introduction: An analysis of the novel in America may well turn to the past and contemporary novels in England for explanation of the growth of each and the effect upon the American novel. One accepts the fact that the best-loved books in the homes of the early settlers were those editions of English novels which had been in the libraries of the old families in North Carolina and Virginia. Some of these books had been brought into the Montgomery County area when the owners flocked to this section during the westward movement following the depression of the 1830's.

Books for leisure in homes where contact with culture represented all that remained to indicate more affluent days were highly prized. In homes where slaves provided the menial labor and families afforded tutors for the children there was a greater acquaintance with the classics. The pride of reading in the original Greek and Latin led to the establishment of classic private schools. Evenings of reading aloud from the English masterpieces were frequent. The library was as much a part of the house plan as was the parlor. The complete works of Dickens and Scott, of Thackeray and Bulwer-Lytton were to be found in many homes.

Time was to be had for reading; little time was to be had for writing.

Perhaps the earliest novels were from the pen of professional writers for only they had the leisure for an avocation closely allied with the labor of their vocation. They were accustomed to handling words, the tool of their trade, and as publishers they had access to the facilities for printing such volumes.

Authors

1. An early novel by R. W. Thomas, publisher, journalist, and author, is The Young Colonel which is similar in pattern, scene, and scope to many novels published in England prior to and during this same period. It is a historical novel of the court of the licentious Edward II, when a dying family feud, an awakening Scottish border war, and an insidious court intrigue combine to part young lovers. When death is preferable to dishonor and the Queen saves the innocent girl from the dissolute King, there is suspense reminiscent of the work of Sir Walter Scott, a great favorite among the early residents of this area.

The historical characters move smoothly through the action, the conversation seems appropriate to the period, but there is little description of castles and of landscape. As with Scott, the plot-action is entrusted to fictitious characters who are more easily manipulated and motivated into such action.

Mr. Thomas states in the Introduction to his book:

It is not usual, nor is it often necessary, to say anything explanatory of so short and unpretending a story as is told in the following pages. But as it is based, to some extent, upon historical facts, any marked departure therefrom should be accompanied by the reasons for that departure. The reader of history will, for instance, object to the military title affixed to the name of the hero, as finding no warrant for it in the history of his day; and the author can plead, in answer, only that he selected a title which would best convey to the reader his rank in the army, without reference to the military distinctions which may have existed at that day.

The early history of almost every country is, perhaps, made up as much of fiction as of fact; and in borrowings of materials for a story from such history, the writer is as fully authorized to suppose anecdotes of the private adventures and mishaps of kings as to predicate fiction upon the best-authenticated facts. And for the possibility -- and even probability -- of such adventures as are herein related, the reader need only be referred to the history of Edward II., whose licentiousness may well have tempted him into such adventures, and whose imbecility laid him open to the insults which his conduct may have provoked.²

Thus Mr. Thomas conceives the historical novel; his skill is then judged in relation to his ability to interpret and to understand the characters as well as if they were his contemporaries, and aside from skill he must have sufficient knowledge and imagination to translate himself into an earlier time with its mode of life in all its phases.

Within this same volume he had incorporated two novellas: "Lilly Dale, The Adventurer's Daughter" and "Bettie Leeland or The Head against the Heart." In each of these there is the prevailing idea of obedience to one's parent in

2. R. W. Thomas, The Young Colonel and Other Tales, pp. vii-viii. Nashville: R. W. Thomas, 1860.

the choice of a husband in contrast to the desire to marry for love, though that may be in poverty. Thus the popular themes of death as preferable to dishonor and love in poverty prevailing over wealth without love are employed by this author.

The War Between the States afforded no time for pursuance of the arts of writing; the later years were equally barren. A community which had been in the hands of the Federals since February 1862 had actual experiences too revolting to put into the printed page. When one lives in a deep emotional scene, he seldom cares to read of it.

2. Thus the years passed until a former Confederate soldier, then the local judge, C. W. Tyler, produced the regional novel with the challenging title The K. K. K., which is not a report on the activities of the Tennessee-born organization of the same name; it is a book which encouraged law and order through depicting the errors inherent in mob psychology and such inevitable regrets of erroneous action.

Following its publication, this letter appeared in the local newspaper:

To the Times-Journal.

To the woman of average intelligence, the laws, courts, judicial proceedings of our beloved Tennessee, belong to an unknown realm, thus for pleasing information Judge Tyler's "The K. K. K." is a boon.

Every page teems with home truths that are told in such clear, strong, straightforward, captivating way, that one must feel glad and grateful as the book is read.

For historic value, for instilling State patriotism, for equipping mind, will and heart with ideas of justice before the explosive sympathy of sentimentalism, for illustrating the many-sided benefits of laws adapted to present needs; for teaching the majority of the legal profession, this book is of intrinsic value.

Indeed our Tennessee boys and girls need the educating element of "The K. K. K." while they will find a corresponding fascination in its unvarnished truths.

One feels constantly that the characters, drawn with such delicious faithfulness, are within hand-clasp. Do not most of us boast actual acquaintance with a "Palaver," a "Sue Bascombe," a "Slowboy."³

Judge C. W. Tyler states in the foreword to The K. K. K.:

Few thoughtful persons in this country can have failed to note the rapid growth of mob law among us in the last few years. . . .

Having been the judge of a criminal court for a number of years, I have become convinced that the only reason why good citizens countenance mob violence is that they have lost faith in the ability of the courts to deal effectually with crime. . . .

The present story was written primarily for the purpose of tracing the progress of a grave criminal trial through the courts, and showing how wearisome and exasperating such a proceeding must be to those deeply interested in the suppression of crime and the preservation of order in a community.⁴

Although the scene of the action is not in Montgomery County it is nearby, as is indicated in the opening chapter:

3. Letter in the Clarksville Daily Times-Journal (August 22, 1902).

4. C. W. Tyler, The K. K. K., p. 3. New York: The Abbey Press, 1902.

If you ever take occasion to descend the Cumberland River by steamer from Nashville, Tennessee, you will observe on the right bank of that picturesque stream, not far from the rapids called Harpeth Shoals, a rolling tract of high-lands extending for some distance along your route, and stretching as far back into the interior as the eye can reach. This highland territory is known to the dwellers within its borders, and the good folk of the region roundabout, as "the Marrowbone Hills."⁵

Thus did this loyal Southerner entitle his appeal for law and order The K. K. K., a name synonymous with the Southern movement to restore legal rights to the disfranchised Confederates.

A decade later, Judge Tyler looked back upon the sacrifice and loyalties required by the War Between the States, and from his pen there came that tribute to the young Tennessee martyr, Sam Davis. The Scout reveals those traits of heroism and loyalty exemplified in that young patriot whose dying words are not to be forgotten: "Do you think that I would betray a trust reposed in me? I would die a thousand times first."⁶

In the foreword to this volume Judge Tyler states:

I have often thought if some skillful writer would weave into a story a few of the many stirring incidents of our great Civil War, it would not only prove interesting reading to those of the present day, but would go far toward enlightening them as to the real issue in the contest. . . .

Nearly a half century has passed away. . . Together

5. Ibid., p. 5.

6. C. W. Tyler, The Scout, p. 296. Nashville: Publishing House M. E. Church, South, 1912.

the whites and blacks of the South are working out their own salvation. The latter, with few exceptions, still dwell in the land into which the cruel New England slave dealers sold them. They till in freedom the soil which their ancestors tilled in bondage, thus bearing mute evidence to the fact that the white people of the South were not hard taskmasters in the days of slavery, and have been their best and truest friends since.⁷

Judge Tyler again wrote a regional novel, this one based upon facts in a period well remembered by many of his readers. His talents for writing had increased; the cadence of his work had so improved as to be almost as rhythmic as verse. To one who has seen Middle Tennessee in autumn, the scene is indelible.

The autumn time in Middle Tennessee. The woods are green, and red, and golden-hued. The leaves, when stirred by the light breeze, forsake their hold on the boughs and flutter toward the earth. In a sudden gust they come in great showers that cloud the air, and whirl and play fantastic tricks as they are borne along. The creeks are low and clear, and ripple over pebbly bottoms toward the larger watercourses. The meadows are brown and sere, for the breath of the frost has touched them. The stillness is unbroken save by the whirr of the partridge as she wings her rapid flight, or the bark of the squirrel from a hickory-nut tree in some nearby wood. The sky is clear, but a thin smoky veil envelopes the earth and dims the vision, so that distant objects are seen as through a glass darkly. The enchanted season of Indian summer is at hand. The yellow sunlight sheds a flood of excellent glory over all things and through a dreamy haze the good God smiles on the world.⁸

His daughter, Mrs. Emily Tyler Bailey, holds fond recollections of her father:

My precious father once said to me, "I am not leaving you rich in this world's goods, my dear, but I have given

7. Ibid., p. 12.

8. Ibid., p. 15.

you a good mind and taught you to use it!" . . . He used to run his hand across the books and say, "Remember, these are the minds of men. Ready to talk to you at any time." . . .

To his death he spoke Latin and Greek as most people speak French and German. He was a walking encyclopedia of information. . . .⁹

Near the turn of the century when the struggle between the romantic and realistic forces found champions in all parts of this land, there appeared two women writers in Montgomery County.

3. The first of these was Martha McCulloch-Williams whose formal schooling endured one day, her first and last, for her aversion to the noise and confusion led her to be taught at home by her sister Mary who had been educated at Miss Mary Ward's school, White Hall, at Ringgold. She became a writer at an early age; her removal to New York in 1887 and her marriage to Thomas McCulloch Williams resulted in her choice of the hyphenated name to distinguish her from another writer with a name similar to her own. Her novels Field Farings, Two of a Trade, Milre, and Next to the Ground appeared between 1892 and 1901. A number of serials were published after this time. She was a personal friend of Dorothy Dix, another writer from Montgomery County.¹⁰

9. Letter from Mrs. Emily Tyler Bailey to Ursula Lee Smith. Letter in the personal collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

10. Letter from Mrs. Frances E. Polk to Ursula Lee Smith. Letter in collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

4. The second writer of this period was of international importance, for the marriage of Hallie Erminie Rives to Post Wheeler, the United States diplomat, allowed her to spend many years abroad. Her deep understanding of the local conditions and problems, her sympathetic interpretation of these cultural concepts won for her awards from nations where women had received little recognition of their literary and political contributions.

Her work is characterized by keen insight and vivid imagination.¹¹ The list of her novels is quite long; these have their settings in the various countries where her husband served as United States consul. Such nations as Japan, Greece, and others were so impressed by her sympathetic presentation of their racial and cultural problems that they honored her with special awards.

5. The name of Evelyn Scott (nee Elsie Dunn) is acclaimed in literary circles, for she is well known for her outstanding work in the novel. A well-educated woman with a background on three continents, she has expressed defiance rather than the usual nostalgia of the Southern-born woman.

Of her absence from the United States and its effect upon her work and attitudes she has stated:

11. Lucian Lamar Knight, editor, Library of Southern Literature, Vol. 15, p. 371. Atlanta: The Martin & Hoyt Co., 1910.

"During twenty-four years," she wrote in 1937, "I have spent some five years in the U. S. A.: and conclude, after this experience, that expatriation does not, in any sense exist. Such absences, though they may preclude regional enthusiasms, make one recognize one's self more, not less, American. There is, however, with the gain in perspective, a loss in contentment. . . ."12

Her earlier novels, The Narrow House and Narcissus, were published prior to her autobiography, Escapade, of which Oscar Cargill says:

Escapade is full of the defiance of the 'twenties, bold in its refusal to count the cost, but frank in revealing the inconveniences and penalties attendant to breaking conventions. . . . Hence the book has a real place, both in literature of adventure and in summary of the attitudes that rationalization forced Americans into in the 'twenties.13

Of Escapade, Millett states: ". . . all the armor of reticence has been stripped off, and we get the painfully naked and quivering experience of an overwrought and self-lacerating personality."14

Millett further states:15

The naturalism of Evelyn Scott has an emphatically, not to say a personally subjective quality. Her earlier novels -- The Narrow House (1921) and Narcissus (1922) -- specialized in sensitive reactions to the physically unpleasant, and this habit of relentless, almost morbid psychological notation, is not without its influence in her

12. Fred B. Millett, Contemporary American Authors, p. 570. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Company, 1943.

13. Oscar Cargill, Intellectual America, p. 723. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1941.

14. Millett, op. cit., p. 179.

15. Ibid., p. 33.

more objective work in the historical novel, The Wave (1929), or in her excursion into post-Victorian social life in Breathe upon These Slain (1934).

Whereas The Wave is a novel of the South and of the effects of the war upon the rank and file of the people touched by the conflict, it does not follow the usual pattern of a novel with a sustained plot; it is composed of approximately sixty separate narratives brought together with the war as the central and common factor.

Breathe upon These Slain is the English scene and family life in retrospect, for it was only after Evelyn Scott had married John Metcalfe, eminent English author, that she made her home in England.

Other novels, short stories, juveniles, and poems have made the name of Evelyn Scott well known in literary circles. However, in Clarksville she is perhaps best known and most caustically criticized for her second autobiography, Background in Tennessee. She had returned to this city for a brief visit; accompanied by her son, she had met with social rebuffs and unwarranted criticism. Perhaps in retaliation she felt impelled to be brutally frank in her memoirs of her youth for there is bitterness and irony in her recollections of the actual persons and episodes described.

Millett has this to say of this controversial book:

Here, the old southern civilization is refracted through a relentlessly honest and adversity-sharpened temperament, and the result is the casting of a harsh white

light on a mode of life usually suffused with deceptive stage moonlight.¹⁶

6. However, in direct contrast to this harsh light upon the Southern scene we find the mist and moonlight in the work of Anna Mabry Barr, who writes under the name of Garraway Renfrew. Her novels of social problems in the Roaring Twenties and the Thirsty Thirties are very well written: the introductions are a bit laborious, but the characterizations and actions are quite natural, the settings appropriate to the suspenseful action. There is a tolerance and a sympathetic understanding of the problems of wayward youth who grow to maturity through personal sacrifice and suffering. My Old Field has its setting in this county and in adjoining Kentucky; Vivid Knight is of the Gulf Coast region, the deep South with its traditions and standards of conduct and compensations.

7. William Thomas Person, graduate of Southwestern following World War I, has written several novels and juveniles of the South and its people in rural sections of Mississippi and Arkansas.

Of No Land is Free (1946), a novel of rural Arkansas, Andrea Parke states, "A diverting little tale full of action and color. . . Mr. Person tells it all in a comfortable, easy style -- creating out of intimate knowledge a background

16. Ibid., p. 179.

and atmosphere that come glowingly alive."¹⁷

8. Two more great writers now joined the pattern of independence illustrated by Evelyn Scott. In the 1930's, novels by Caroline Gordon and Allen Tate attracted attention, for these authors achieved mature stature.

Vivienne Koch has explained the delayed recognition of the excellence of Caroline Gordon's work in this manner:

She has not accommodated the austerities of her method to that cultivation of violence and oddity for its own sake, whether in subject-matter or style, . . . while there is nostalgia and backward glancing in her early novels of the old South, she sternly reminds herself in the title of one of them that "None shall look back."¹⁸

Of her several novels much has been written. Caroline Gordon states: "The region around Clarksville, which includes a part of Kentucky, is the scene of my first four novels."¹⁹

The first novel Penhally illustrates the naturalistic method she was to employ in her work of the next years. This book, filled with the nostalgia for a lost grandeur of the ante-bellum days, uses stories of the past and memories to reveal the depth and distance and tragic destiny of the scene.

17. Andrea Parke in New York Times (January 12, 1947), p. 26.

18. Vivienne Koch, "The Conservatism of Caroline Gordon," Southern Renaissance, p. 325. Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., and Robert D. Jacobs. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.

19. Stanley J. Kunitz and Howard Haycraft, Twentieth Century Authors, p. 551. New York: The H. W. Wilson Co., 1942.

Her second novel, Aleck Maury, Sportsman, is almost biographical, for this is the life of her father, her close companion. Miss Koch writes of the "made-upness of the world of sport," but one must become aware of the actuality of the scenes and the events described. There is no artificiality; these places and people existed in reality. They are fact rather than fiction. It becomes quite interesting to discover a critic who discloses and interprets symbolism in the true facts as revealed by this daughter who so understood her father as to make of his life a sustained and interesting book of "fiction."

Her third novel, None Shall Look Back, a Civil War novel in which General Nathan Bedford Forrest is the dominant figure, is a serious novel in the sense that "the level is carefully historical with a good deal of social exposition worked in."²⁰

The fourth novel of the Tennessee-Kentucky scene is The Garden of Adonis. Here the time has become quite modern, set in the midst of the depression. Here we find further evidence of her carefully traced genealogy of more than a century and a half of the families in northern Tennessee and southern Kentucky. These families are factual, and are recognizable in the transparent fictional names.

20. Koch, op. cit., p. 329.

Her other novels, Green Centuries, a historical study of the Kentucky settlers in the Indian country, and The Women on the Porch, a modern study of the necessity of settling one's roots in an area if one is to reach fulfillment, are oddly alike though far apart in time.

Of further interest to the people of this community is The Strange Children, which has a local setting with local folk taking part. But the critic, Miss Koch, states:

Caroline Gordon's fiction is now squarely in the realm of the novel of manners, the great tradition of Flaubert and James, and like theirs her social comedy is complicated and, in the end, dominated by the perilous likeness it bears to tragedy. . . . It is a novel of ideas and in it she establishes that this is her proper domain. . . .²¹

It is in this criticism by Koch that we find

. . . the first work in which Caroline Gordon exchanges the frame of reference of a vanished hierarchy of caste and grace, represented by the old South, for the universe of order provided by the more durable scheme of Catholicism and its idea of grace. . . . Alienation means no longer merely to be cast out from a social class or a local society, but a removal from God to whom we have become strange children.²²

9. The marriage of Caroline Gordon to Allen Tate brought him into this community, where they entertained other authors and where they spent much time in writing.

Allen Tate, the versatile author, is acclaimed by Millett:

21. Ibid., p. 333.

22. Ibid., p. 337.

Allen Tate is more impressive perhaps as critic and biographer of southern heroes than as a poet. . . in Tate, the critical powers clearly exceed the creative; . . . But his range of literary activities and his critical plasticity argue well for his distinction as a man of letters, if not primarily as a poet.²³

Millett also states of Tate:

He feels that the significant values of life for the purposes of literature are the points at which individual emotional and instinctive experience are met and worked upon by the force of reason in time, as revealed in traditions.²⁴

Wade Donahoe has stated:

His only novel, The Fathers, is constructed around the mysterious conduct of one of the principal characters who cannot either contain himself in a real tradition or submit to picturesque imitations of the surface of tradition.²⁵

With reference to his one novel, Tate has reported:

I have been asked many times why I became a writer. I simply could not put my mind on anything else. As far back as I can remember I was wondering why the people and families I knew -- my own family in particular -- had got to be what they were, and what their experience had been. This problem, greatly extended, continues to absorb my study and speculation, and is the substance of my novel, The Fathers.²⁶

10. The latest writer of distinction, Robert Penn Warren, lived a few miles from Clarksville and attended the

23. Millett, op. cit., p. 147.

24. Ibid., p. 609.

25. Wade Donahoe, "Allen Tate And The Idea of Culture," Southern Renaissance, p. 48. Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., and Robert D. Jacobs. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.

26. Kunitz and Haycraft, op. cit., p. 1386.

local high school. His earliest writing was done for the high school journal, and later he contributed to the *Fugitive* and Agrarian movements while at Vanderbilt.

Of the many men of letters identified with the Southern literary renaissance of recent decades, Robert Penn Warren is probably the most versatile; he is poet, critic, novelist, short-story writer, and dramatist. . . . Probably no writer doing significant work in this generation is more learned.²⁷

As a novelist, Warren has dealt primarily with the problems of the twentieth-century civilization. . . . Basically, his theme is the Problem of Evil. Warren's characters are constantly violating the original innocence of their natures. . . .²⁸

Actually all of Warren's moderns seem to be doomed. . . . primarily because they are "disassociated." Those characters who are able to preserve a measure of integrity have mores rooted in an earlier and alien tradition, a simpler tradition in the sense that its way of life possessed form and meaning. . . . In the broad sense of the term, the tradition which all these characters represent is agrarian.²⁹

Robert Penn Warren has uncovered the historical sources of American violence and made them available for literary purposes, all four of his novels taking off from violent episodes in history that are used to illumine modern meanings.³⁰

The residents of Montgomery County and adjoining

27. Richmond Croome Beatty, Floyd C. Watkins, and Thomas Daniel Young, The Literature of the South, p. 630. Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1952.

28. Ibid., p. 630.

29. Ibid., p. 631.

30. Charles R. Anderson, "Violence And Order In The Novels Of Robert Penn Warren," Southern Renaissance, p. 207. Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr., and Robert D. Jacobs. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.

counties in Tennessee and Kentucky, even after fifty years, feel a bit of shame and recrimination for the events of the "tobacco war" which Warren uses as the setting for Night Rider, his first novel. The background of this historical episode is almost documentary; names and places have been changed, yet are identifiable by those residents of the area. The idea that justice obtained through violence is justifiable becomes an obsession; those who are seeking their own protection and rights become fanatical in depriving others of these same rights. The confusion of values and the inevitable loss of dignity of man are evident in this novel of human limitations.

The second novel, At Heaven's Gate, is based on the actual career of Luke Lea, Tennessean, whose ruthless business methods and political corruption resulted in criminal prosecution for his part in a multi-million-dollar failure in 1929.

The third novel, All the King's Men, follows in some detail the career of Huey Long, and becomes Warren's fullest achievement in tragedy. Herein we find that essential evil is internal, and order cannot be imposed mechanically from the outside.

The fourth novel, World Enough and Time, returns to Kentucky for a tragedy which occurred more than a century ago. Here Warren "adopts melodrama as his subject matter and

allegory as his vehicle, but shoulders them both off onto the 'diary' kept by his hero."³¹

Much has been written by critics concerning the symbolism and philosophy to be found in Warren's work. Much has been said of the skills which he possessed and utilized in his expression of ideas. Morton Dauwen Zabel writes of his

. . . exacting craftsmanship and really critical sense of a local ideal. . . [with] emphasis on his conflicts of spirit, . . . a writer who more and more shows himself, in both his verse and prose, one of the most serious and gifted intelligences of his generation.³²

Perhaps this region has reached its zenith in its native novelists and those whose lives were touched for so few years by training or residence within the community. Some of the early works are now out of print and may be found only in old libraries and out-of-the-way shops; the later works are of national importance.

Many creative years lie ahead for the four great writers: the two women, native and reared in the area, and the two men whose lives touched Montgomery County for such a brief while.

31. Ibid., p. 219.

32. Kunitz and Haycraft, op. cit., p. 1477.

B. The Short Story

Introduction: The short story in America has had a distinct role in literature. Not only were the rules of the short story standardized by Poe, but his influence was felt in theory and practice. Before the last quarter of the nineteenth century critics were not aware that the short story was a distinct literary form with laws and principles of its own.

The short story in contemporary literature is marked by its general excellence and occasional distinction. "The standardized American short story is the very creditable and dependable product of a highly organized industry."³³ The American magazine industry provides the medium for publication of this type of literature with its concentration, intensity, and impact upon the emotions and intellect of the reader. The American public whose reading habits are affected by the momentum of living demand concentrated action and emotion.

"The aim of the short story writer has been to achieve distinction either within the limits of the established form or outside the oppressive conventions of subject matter and technique."³⁴ Those authors who write for economic reasons

33. Fred B. Millett, op. cit., p. 85.

34. Ibid., p. 85.

conform to the demands of a paying public; those who write for experimentation find publishers in exceptional literary publications.

Several anthologies of short stories have appeared annually for many years; many of these illustrate the process of standardization and its consequent sterility of product. Such anthologies were published for sale to the indiscriminating public, and names of popular authors aided this sale.

It is to Whit Burnett and his wife, Martha Foley, that credit should be given for recognition of the experimental writers. Edward J. O'Brien, editor and anthologist, fought for recognition of experimentation in fiction.

In recent years the more discriminating public has made possible profitable publication of magazines and other media; the experimental writer does not rely upon his writing for his economic existence, it may be his avocation.

Local Writers

The authors of short stories are in the main those who also wrote novels. Perhaps, in a sense, the tales or novellas of R. W. Thomas, have no relation to Poe's concepts of the short story. They are neither brief nor concise, they have many characters, much time elapses, there is no single theme or emotion involved; in fact, these tales published in 1860 have little in common with the well-restricted

short story.

1. Judge C. W. Tyler published one book of short stories, Tales of the South. These stories of the old South are sympathetic and nostalgic in tone. This book has long been out of print.

2. Martha McCulloch-Williams, one of the most widely read writers of her time, was known for her short stories and serials as well as for the novels. Who's Who (1916-1917) states:

Has also written and had published since 1892 several serials and over 200 short stories, notably "Pianner Mares," "An Eyelash Finish," "Sarsaparilla," "A Backslider," "A Red Fox," and "In Jackson's Purchase" (prize story in McClure's competition).

This little lady, born in Montgomery County in 1848, had moved to New York in 1887 and apparently had encountered no difficulty in locating publishers for her work. Many of her stories dealt with the South which she portrayed with sympathetic understanding.

3. Dorothy Dix (Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer) was a personal friend of Martha McCulloch-Williams although there was some difference in their ages. This friendship was cemented during the years that the two were in the East, and continued until the death of the latter in 1934. Dorothy Dix was known for her work on the staff of the New Orleans Picayune and the New York American, and later with the Hearst syndicate. However, she found time for writing some short

stories and satire. One of the best known volumes of social satire is Fables of the Elite, a collection of brief and pointed stories.

4. Hallie Erminie Rives is acclaimed for her many short stories. One of these, "In the Wake of War," was published in Short Story Classics (American). Of her was said:

Miss Rives (born in Christian County, Kentucky, May 2, 1876) has disciplined herself more arduously than most of the popular novelists in that training school of style, short story writing. The book of hers which first attracted general attention, A Furnace of Earth, was in form and spirit a short story. Its very title is suggestive of the process of refinement that it underwent in the manuscript: it was rewritten seven times. "In the Wake of War," a Southern story, has been selected for the present series by the author herself as representative of her recent work in brief fiction.³⁵

One must read this story to sense the useless tragedy of conflict and the bodies broken by men who live to regret the action justified in the day of battle. Few men see the victim of their hate as did Brent Maxwell, the former Union soldier, and few have the opportunity to atone for their actions and to obtain absolution for their souls.

5. Another local author whose work is difficult to obtain for much of it is out of print is Evelyn Scott (Elsie Dunn). Her collection of short stories, Ideals, a Book of Farce and Comedy, was published in 1927. Apparently there

35. William Patten, editor, Short Story Classics (American), p. 1679. New York: B. F. Collier & Son, 1905.

was little time for short stories in the life of this author who had twelve books published in the decade, 1925-1935.

6. Caroline Gordon published a collection of sixteen short stories which had previously appeared in America or England. Of these, "Old Red" is considered one of the best short stories by any contemporary Southerner. Vivienne Koch considers this "a useful place to look into the more mature habits of her art as it explores the humours of nostalgia."³⁶

Caroline Gordon is not creating her characters and setting. Her close association with her father gave her a masculine concept of values, and her observance of the values of his life gave her the material for these biographical sketches in which Aleck Maury is the name borne by her father.

Local setting is so accurate in all of her stories that one can follow the characters as they move about the community. She writes equally well of the mountains around Monteagle. Yet, these are not local color stories in the truest sense. Her powers of observation and retention of detail are challenging and remarkable.

36. Vivienne Koch, "The Conservatism of Caroline Gordon," Southern Renaissance, p. 328. Edited by Louis D. Ruben, Jr., and Robert D. Jacobs. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953.

Perhaps to the local resident, "The Last Day in the Field" is of greatest interest. It was of this definitely local scene that Richard Sullivan said:

In that sound and excellent story, "The Last Day in the Field" (centering on old Aleck Maury, a gentleman already familiar to early readers of Caroline Gordon) one gets the very radiation of the physical earth and the intimate goodness of a pair of men who walk hunting across its surface.³⁷

Of the entire book this critic, Richard Sullivan, states:

The major characters move within subtle, inclusive webs of family and community relationships, always in an atmosphere of beautifully realized natural detail. Yet despite the author's evident sensitivity to nature and the frequent loveliness with which she treats it, there is never a suggestion of any selfconscious planting of figures against a suitable lush backdrop.³⁸

7. Robert Penn Warren chooses Tennessee for the setting of many of his short stories. Perhaps this is because of the proximity of his home to the Tennessee line, and because of certain connotations to the words Tennessee and Kentucky when used to refer to the ignorant, long-suffering, poverty-ridden individual commonly found in both states. The Kentuckian of much literature is the man of the hill country; the Tennessean in literature is often from the rural farm area such as may be found in Montgomery County.

37. Richard Sullivan's review in the New York Times Literary Section (October 7, 1945), p. 26.

38. Ibid., p. 26.

Warren has had one collection of short stories printed with the title aptly chosen. Of Circus in the Attic has been said:

Surely and deliberately, he creates atmosphere. Its tone is one of quietness. Trees hang heavy, dust is thick, air is still, creeks are sluggish, voices are slow and low. The mood is one of sober disillusionment, but, all the same, life is worth while, for there are decency and honor. The reader is always impressed with that sense of continuity. Some of the stories have sudden violent endings, but these, too, are only episodes in the continuity of life. Most of the stories are like bits chipped out of a cycle.³⁹

Again, of this collection has been said:

The variety of the stories and the range of characters are proof of the strong inventive imagination. . . . The stories have a kind of delayed-action effect; they are written with a skill that first of all effaces itself, and the ironic detachment of the prose belies the intensity of the subjects.⁴⁰

8. An early schoolmate of Warren, Thomas D. Mabry, is the Clarksvillian who has most recently received distinction in the short story field. In 1949 one of his short stories was chosen by Martha Foley for inclusion in her published collection of the best stories of the year.

Thomas Mabry received the 1954 O. Henry Prize for the short story, "The Indian Feather," originally printed in the Sewanee Review.

Of this award the editors stated:

39. Christian Science Monitor (January 30, 1948), p. 14.

40. New Republic (January 26, 1948), p. 118.

In a time when too many short stories are growing longer, more verbose and more diffuse, and thus losing that explosive capacity of aesthetic excitement which characterizes the best short story fiction, the striking impression offered by Thomas Mabry's "The Indian Feather" lies in its rich sense of complexity and compression. The author has utilized most of the techniques available to the modern writer in order to construct a thick-textured and dimensional piece of work. . . .

Mr. Mabry's careful attention to naturalistic fact creates a visibly sensuous world, the properties of which are perceived through the nerve ends. The town, the river, the countryside are more than backdrops for an action; they are the physical factors which help to constitute the problems of the story's people. . . .⁴¹

Finally, the author has not hesitated to exploit language to the fullest extent, when justified by the emotional intensity of situation. It is for this rich texture of style, incident, and created character, growing out of the most carefully observed physical environment and culminating in a complex awareness, that the editors chose "The Indian Feather" as the outstanding short story of the year.⁴²

9. Danforth Ross, young local writer now winning recognition for his discerning work in the short story, is well represented by "The Cloud" which appeared in the Sewanee Review of 1953. This intensely realistic story discloses the heartbreak and frustration of an aging farmer in a decaying agrarian civilization. The once strong and successful individual, now resentful of the strength of one Negro field-hand and baffled by the incompetence of another,

41. Paul Engle and Hartsford Martin, co-editors, Prize Stories, 1954, p. 12. New York: Doubleday Company, Inc., 1954.

42. Ibid., p. 13.

offended at the placidity of his wife and antagonized by the independence of his son, helpless in the face of the storms of nature and of self, dies as the battle rages within his physical being.

On the basis of this creditable story, Mr. Ross has received awards which will enable him to continue his writing of the novel upon which he is working at this time.

Other young writers who may contribute to the literature of the future are at present being recognized in the Tower, an anthology published annually by the English department at Austin Peay State College. Much significant work is found in this collection of the best student composition in prose and verse forms.

C. Drama

Introduction: The early residents of Montgomery County were not puritanical in their concepts of the drama and of entertainment on the stage.

The old register of the National Hotel, located at the south end of the public square, bore the signature of Joe Jefferson when he played here in The Lady of Lyons, of Sol Russell who appeared here in Poor Relations, of Mary Anderson who made an appearance in Clarksville when she played out of Louisville, of "Buffalo Bill" Cody, and of Jenny Lind when she sang before an appreciative audience in April, 1851.⁴³

Transportation by stage from Louisville to Nashville may have prompted the inclusion of this city as a favorable spot for an interested audience. The river route for troupes from Nashville to St. Louis also brought productions to the city.

Although there has been no house built for Theatrical Entertainments, yet, they are conducted by an enterprising manager, in a comfortable and spacious hall. The best talent in that line is often offered, and their acting highly appreciated and applauded by those who patronize such amusements.

Public lectures on literary and scientific subjects, are frequently given by the highest order of talent known in the Union, to crowded [sic] audiences and eager listeners,

43. Gene Juneau Morrow, Historical Notes. Clarksville: Leaf-Chronicle, 1934.

an evidence that the citizens have a taste for good literature.⁴⁴

The appearance of numerous local and guest artists necessitated a meeting place in the early days of the city. Wells Fowler, a shrewd, eccentric bachelor and jeweler of the decade 1836-1846, built two houses on the south side of Franklin Street mid-way between First and Second Streets.⁴⁵ Here in the auditorium known as Fowler's Hall the local folk enjoyed an evening of entertainment on January 29, 1858, presented by Herman Melville, author of Moby Dick. His lecture on architecture drew a large audience, despite the cold weather.

Local Thespians and Entertainers

The organization of a Thespian Society in Clarksville, perhaps the earliest cultural club in the area, is all the more amazing when one notes: "The white population of Clarksville in the year 1826, was 215, consisting of 40 families, of which there were 65 unmarried men, 8 unmarried women, 55 children."⁴⁶

Yet, as early as 1825, there was an organization which gave cooperative assistance to a similar organization in Nashville.

44. Titus, op. cit., p. 155.

45. Ibid., p. 155.

46. W. R. Bringhurst, "Clarksville," Williams' Clarksville Directory, 1859-60, p. 13. Clarksville: C. O. Faxon, 1859.

The regular doctors of Nashville waged a campaign to regularize the professions. One means of redress was legal. They accordingly sought the formation of a "medical board" to license practitioners and through it to stiffen requirements. Then they came forward with two concrete plans. One was enlisted to make it succeed. The Thespian Society gave two benefit performances, in one of which the Thespians from Clarksville took part, and the occasion of turning over the receipts to the managers of the lottery was made a public ceremony. Nashville Republican (August 6, 1825).⁴⁷

The Thespian Society and its successors, the Jeffersonian and Lyceum Clubs, provided local talent for lectures and other forms of recreation and entertainment. The young ladies of the Clarksville Female Academy, incorporated in 1842, enjoyed the opportunities presented by the Erwin, or Literary Society; the young men at Stewart College organized the Clay Club in May, 1858. Thus adults and youth participated in these cultural pursuits.

Members of the Southwestern Presbyterian University faculty were popular lecturers and entertainers,

. . . but perhaps the most popular of the entertainers was Dr. Joseph Wilson, Professor of Theology, whose fame was widespread as "an eloquent and captivating speaker." He was always greeted by a crowded house. His audience was particularly impressed by his "superb" lecture on "Courage" given for the benefit of the University gymnasium in October, 1886. "His intermingling of wit and wisdom, jest and judgment, pleasantry and pathos, evinced a master's hand, as well as the most elaborate preparation." The fine gift of oratory possessed by Woodrow Wilson would

47. Tennessee Historical Society, East Publications, No. 18 (1946), p. 99. Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1948.

seem to have been inherited to some extent from his illustrious father, the Professor of Theology at the University.⁴⁸

The citizens enjoyed attendance at these ever popular lectures and at such stage shows as were presented by traveling professional troupes. As these professional presentations were infrequent, amateur dramatics played a part in the community life. However, few plays were preserved for posterity.

In manuscript there is a "local farce" from the pen of Dr. Daniel F. Wright, physician in Clarksville during the War between the States and thereafter. "The Jayhawkers, or The Terrors of the Dover Road" is placed in a local setting, and it deals with the terrors of the community during the war years when the town was occupied by the Federal troops.⁴⁹ The problems which arose over passage through the military lines which outlined the city and difficulties with the guerrillas are handled with a light touch, making this a three-act farce. There is no evidence that it was actually produced.

Public demand necessitated improved facilities for producing amateur and professional performances. Elder's

48. Waller Raymond Cooper, Southwestern at Memphis, pp. 81-82. Richmond: John Knox Press, 1949.

49. Dr. Daniel F. Wright, "The Jayhawkers, or The Terrors of the Dover Road." A manuscript in the collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

Opera House, on the corner of Franklin Street and the Public Square, was remodeled extensively in 1887. In addition to four proscenium boxes there were seats for eight hundred persons. The manager ". . . contracts with all visiting troupes, organizations and specialty companies who visit the city, and is very particular about the class of artists whom he contracts with."⁵⁰ Until the fire in 1914, which resulted in the complete destruction of this building, it was the center of cultural entertainment in the city.

After more than a decade there was formed the organization, The Clarksville Little Theater, which produced four or five popular plays each year from 1927 through 1935, when it was the victim of the depression and inclement weather in its first venture as a summer tent-theater.

Its greatest heights were reached in 1934 when this organization inspired and initiated the Clarksville Sesquicentennial Celebration.

The sesquicentennial of the founding of Clarksville, Montgomery County, was celebrated June tenth to thirteenth. A giant parade, an historical pageant, and visits to places of historical interest in the town and vicinity were features of the celebration.⁵¹

Members of the Little Theater wrote, produced, and

50. Titus, op. cit., p. 381.

51. Tennessee Historical Society, East Tennessee Historical Society, East Tennessee Historical Society, East Tennessee Historical Society, No. 7, p. 167. Knoxville: East Tennessee Historical Society, 1936.

directed the historical drama, Through the Mist of the Years, which was presented with the assistance of 565 local persons portraying actual individuals of the past and present in Montgomery County. This production on an enormous out-of-door stage was presented in a three-hour performance with especially designed stage settings, and lighting and amplifiers of the most modern types. This eighteen-episode drama was from the pen of the Rev. Arthur E. Whittle, rector of the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Other members of the local theater group who have written plays for local presentation include Mrs. Leigh Buckley, Mrs. M. L. Shelby, and Mr. John M. Mason.

A local teacher in the elementary schools, Mrs. Florence Stevenson, has had several juvenile plays published in The Instructor.

In a community with a historic past, it is natural that outstanding events be commemorated with a pageant. In 1954 two events were thus recognized. The pageant depicting the heritage and history of Austin Peay State College on its twenty-fifth anniversary was written by George C. Grise of the English department. Local citizens, Mrs. William Daniel, Jr., and Mrs. Fletcher Childs, collaborated in writing and directing the pageant representing one hundred years of service to the community by the Northern Bank of Tennessee, the oldest bank in Tennessee.

Many school plays and entertainments are the product of combined efforts of students and teachers in the community. From these experiences talent is recognized and with further training reflects credit upon the community as well as the individuals concerned.

D. Folklore

Introduction: A community of the size and antiquity of Montgomery County should be replete with folk tales and local lore. However, such ideas are usually expressed in oral form and undergo transitions thereby. But, as rationalization and logic attack the accuracy of such tales, as realism inhibits romanticism, as scoffing attacks the credulity of the words of the teller-of-tales, there comes the time when these stories are no longer recounted.

Authors

1. The single well known folk story of Montgomery and Robertson Counties, the account of the Bell Witch, was first compiled by M. V. Ingram of Clarksville in 1894. An Authenticated History of the Famous Bell Witch professed to record events of historical fact, sustained by personal documents and eye-witness accounts of incontrovertible evidence.

The author only assumes to compile data, formally presenting the history of this greatest of all mysteries, just as the matter is furnished to hand, written by Williams Bell, a member of the family some fifty-six years ago, together with the corroborative testimony of men and women of irreproachable character and unquestioned veracity.⁵²

52. Arthur Palmer Hudson and Peter Kyle McCarter, The Journal of American Folk-Lore (January-March, 1934), pp. 136-149. Quoted by B. A. Botkin, A Treasury of American Folklore, p. 696. New York: Crown Publishers, 1944.

2. Harriett Parks Miller's The Bell Witch of Middle Tennessee draws upon similar sources and tells much of the same story. "This pamphlet and letters from residents of Middle Tennessee attest the independent oral survival of the legend in that region."⁵³

The influence of these two books and a third, The Bell Witch, by Dr. Charles Bailey Bell in 1934, has been widespread. Although Dr. C. B. Bell was not a resident of Montgomery County his version is interesting as it corroborates the accounts of the other writers.

It is also of interest to note the influence of this strange account on the world of music. Composer Charles F. Bryan of McMinnville received a Guggenheim fellowship award for achievements in symphonic arrangements in the Bell Witch Cantata. This secular folk cantata for soloist, chorus, and orchestra had its world premiere in Carnegie Hall on April 14, 1947.⁵⁴

The story of the Bell Witch is also the theme of "The Hag of Red River" by James R. Aswell.⁵⁵

53. Ibid., p. 696.

54. East Tennessee Historical Society, No. 20, p. 125. Knoxville: 1948.

55. James R. Aswell, "The Hag of Red River," God Bless the Devil, pp. 136-149. Edited by James R. Aswell. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1940.

The truth or fiction of this strange story has thus appealed to authors outside this area.

... of the poem is to be the dream
... states,
... poetry, the best words
... "Good poetry is
... poetry is both." Her
... poetry substantiates
... poetry looks the quality of reality.
... have been given for poetry, verse,
... no better way to analyse one than to
... others.

... words are used as signs of other
... being the truth or falsity of the
... in poetry, words are a part of what they
... being the beauty or the banality of

... the thought,
... they bring
... the
... only
... simultaneously
... as one, to
... explained; the
...

... literature,
...

CHAPTER IV

VERSE

What is Poetry? Wordsworth says it is "the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge." Coleridge states, "Prose is words in their best order; poetry, the best words in the best order." Edith Siebel records, "Good poetry is neither vague nor sentimental; bad poetry is both." Her belief that sentimentality destroys poetry substantiates her belief that some poetry lacks the quality of reality. Scores of definitions have been given for poetry, verse, and prose. There is no better way to analyze one than to compare it to the others.

. . . in prose, words are used as signs of other things, its criterion being the truth or falsity of the reference; while, in poetry, words are a part of what they signify, its criterion being the beauty or the banality of the association.¹

All structures of prose hold first by the thought, by the tale they carry onward, the character they bring to life; thereafter we may appreciate the language, the form, which could rise to our attention at the moment only as distractions; every structure of poetry is simultaneously meaning and form; we must grasp both together as one, to hold it at all. Prose can be summarized, explained; the only explanation of a poem is the poem.²

1. Joseph T. Shipley, The Quest for Literature, P. 247. New York: Richard R. Smith, Inc., 1931.

2. Ibid., p. 251.

Much verse is not poetry; it may have the form, the rhyme, and the rhythm, but it may lack the beauty, the emotion, and the personal yet universal elements. Robert Graves has stated, "Verse makes a flat pattern on the paper, Poetry stands out in relief."³

In true poetry the subject-matter is not the particular story which the poet desires to tell, he is concerned with the poem itself, its form, its language. One may recognize that the passing of time, the passing of all things, is the theme of every poem. In poetry the past is past, irrevocable, gone; the future lies ahead and we are drawn into it with the sense of eternal movement exemplified in man's unquenchable hope and faith in the rhythmic cycles of life, the undulating waves and tides which sweep endlessly around, about, and within him.

Poets

...the high refer first to the
...the place in which he was
...true of all
...in Clarks-
...of the poetry family on the
...was here,
...wrote the

3. Ibid., p. 252.

A. Personal, Narrative, and Contemplative Verse

Introduction: When one analyzes the poetry or verse written by the people of Montgomery County, one notes that much of it is of a form admired by and meaningful to their family and friends. Yet little of this verse would truly be called poetry. Much of the work has fallen within the field of the narrative and the personal verse; very few of these writers have laved their souls in contemplation.

The great poet not only has something to say, but he is able to say it; he has had varied experiences, real and vicarious, and he is able to reveal in a subtle manner the spirit of his idea through his skilful choice of words. He may not be understood by all his readers; he cannot explain his meaning; it is there for those who are able to reach the plane upon which the meaning lies.

Poets

1. In point of time, one might refer first to the work of Father Abram Ryan during the years in which he was serving the local Catholic Church, and, as was true of all the early priests of that church when in service in Clarks-ville, was boarding in the home of the Conroy family on the corner of Sixth Street and Commerce Street. It was here, in the upper story of the log house, that he wrote the immortal lines of "The Conquered Banner."

The out-pouring of his own grief reflected the South's broken heart:

For though conquered, they adore it!
Love the cold, dead hands that bore it!
Weep for those who fell before it!
Pardon those who trailed and tore it!
But, oh! wildly they deplore it,
Now who furl and fold it so.⁴

Mrs. Hanna P. Conroy in a review of the life of Father Ryan stated:

When the direful news of Lee's surrender reached Clarksville, his hopes were blasted and the glory of the South's success was changed to despair at her failure. . . . he could not overcome the depressing influence of the humiliating thought of his ideal of a man and a soldier, Lee, having to capitulate to Grant.⁵

Mrs. Conroy further states:

The muse of Father Ryan's poetic genius inspired him with a pathos almost akin to melancholy, and I have often said that he could not have written a poem for the South had her armies been victorious which would have touched hearts with such lasting vibrations as have the elegiac sentiments of "The Conquered Banner."⁶

Correspondence between members of the Conroy family and Father Ryan is a prized possession of Mr. John Conroy of this city.

2. Among the young ladies of the community who before the twentieth century found recognition of her talents was

4. Abram Joseph Ryan, "The Conquered Banner," Library of Southern Literature, p. 4639. Atlanta: The Martin and Hoyt Co., 1907.

5. Mrs. Hanna P. Conroy, "From One Who Knew Him." Nashville American (June 26, 1910).

6. Ibid.

Miss Bettie Garland. Miss Bettie, as she was known to hundreds of students who were privileged to sit in her classroom at the Clarksville High School, was able to hold the attention of all as she made history and people come alive in her own charming and inimitable manner. She had the ability to use analogous material in her speech and in her poetry. Her poems were published in Harper's, Munsey's, Scribner's, The Century, and other discriminating publications.

Two of her sonnets, "O Time" and "Unfulfilled" were included in The American Poetry Anthology, compiled by Howard Farlie.⁷ Selections from these poems were very appropriately included in the memorial editorial following her death in June, 1930:

. . . One of the characteristics of sublime souls like hers is that they are never satisfied with their achievements. They always feel that they could have wrought better. This feeling found expression in her poems -- for instance in the poem entitled "O Time!" she said:

And thou "Imperial Time," wilt thou not deal
From thy full store some unfilled warp to me
Again -- and if thou wilt, relenting I
Will promise thee, the years to come shall not
Be lost but safely woven into what
Shall be Life's better work, and not in vain
I'll take the fallen shuttle up again. . . .

And again in "Unfulfilled."

7. The Nashville Banner (June 27, 1930).

As life's last years are swiftly gathering in,
 The grain-cup emptied and the waiting mill
 Is turning slowly on, as waiting still
 For harvest incomplete. There comes within
 A sense of loss in what I hoped to win,
 Of failure life's fair reckoning to fulfill. . . .⁸

Perhaps there is a universal element in these lines, for it may be that as each of us nears the end of the way we may look back and consider what might have been changed if we could retrace our way and use our time, talents, and lives in a different pattern.

3. The name of Mary Enola Rudolph (the late Mrs. R. S. Rudolph) has appeared in many of the poetry digests and anthologies of the years after 1933. Her work was frequently found in the local newspaper, some of it being repeated by request upon the observance of significant occasions.

"Transformation" appeared in three anthologies in 1939.⁹

8. The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle (June 27, 1930).

9. Mary Enola Rudolph, "Transformation," The Paebbar Anthology of Verse, p. 156. New York: Columbia Book Publishing Co., 1939.

9a. Outstanding Contemporary Poets of 1939, p. 113. New York: Literary Publishers, 1939; and

9b. The World's Fair Anthology of Verse, Vol. III, p. 366. New York: The Exposition Press, 1939.

Transformation

The sword of Siegfried if it break,
 No one could mend, rewelding self
 In crucial test, emerged to make
 A perfect whole, new, complete.
 Why tinker then with fragments when
 Our bungling work can not defeat
 The sureness of remorse, regret?
 The wraiths of deeds undone reveal
 The broken parts and certain threat
 To spirit peace and calm. We plod
 Uncertainly until we bring
 All to the crucible of God.

4. Perhaps the least known yet paradoxically the most frequently read woman poet of old Clarksville was Mrs. S. E. W. Pitt. This statement is true if one considers that she alone of the lesser women poets had a volume of poetry published. This small volume, Poems Dear to the Heart, can better be termed verse; it is factual, it discloses facts rather than reveals a subtle meaning or impression. These poems are of a period in Clarksville: of persons, places, and things familiar to the folk of that time, the early twentieth century. For information these verses may be read; for inspiration, they lack the essential elements of imagination and personal submergence within a universal concept.

To read the list of titles will reveal the circumscribed life of Mrs. Pitt: her interest in her family, her church, her neighborhood, and her community.

The widow of a former Clarksville lawyer, she spent much time in the company of her small daughter, Pattie.

Together they enjoyed the natural beauty of the "city on the seven hills." Their walks prompted many verses such as:

The Cumberland

Who hath not viewed the Cumberland,
As she slowly winds along
Through rugged cliffs and meadows green
Past the seven-hilled city of song.

Who hath not viewed the landscape
Stretching out, broad and long,
Stopped in her sweep by a kiss from the sky,
And by the Cumberland rolling on.¹⁰

5. Perhaps the foreword to a collection of poems by Elizabeth Donelson Dabney will express as its title indicates, "A Poet's Prayer":

When stirred to great depths, What limitations
can curb inspiration from Thee?

May these little poems be as the widow's cruse
of oil laid upon Thy altar with an ever-flowing,
insistent fountain for its source.

May they be olive branches gathered by little
white doves, indicating that God remembers his own
and provides in time of trouble. Let each one mean
a little help on the highway of Life, paying toll
required of each traveler on Life's highway.

Stir and fill me with a compelling vision. On
thy altar of conquest I lay it, praying that the
loaf and tiny fish at my disposal may feed the mul-
titude.

10. Mrs. G. L. Pitt, Poems Dear to the Heart, p. 23.
Clarksville: W. P. Titus, 1909.

Much of her poetry has been organized into a type-written booklet; this was done by her son who was lost in the early days of World War II.¹¹ Other of her work has appeared in newspapers and anthologies. Some of her poems deal with the early history of Middle Tennessee and its pioneer settlers, such as:

THE PIONEERS

When young Rachel Stokely
Became the young wife
Of John Donelson,
His companion for life,
She bore him a family
Of sons and of daughters
And reared them with courage
By Chesapeake waters.

But John was ambitious
To lift the frontiers,
And won a land grant
For the service of years.
So the good boat "Adventure"
Was guided with oars
Down the Holston and Cumberland
To Tennessee shores.

The women and children
Each learned how to row
And pulled with their comrades
When courage was low.
Once every day
They would halt for supplies
And trap a fine turkey
Before it got wise.

Or a great antlered buck,
Quenching thirst at the river,

11. "Poems by Elizabeth Donelson Dabney," compiled by Edmund Read Dabney, Hamilton Field, California, 1941. In the private collection of Mrs. Elizabeth Dabney Hadley.

6. Another of the less well known poets whose works appeared in anthologies was Hugh Elzie Martin, iron molder in a Clarksville foundry. Many of his poems were published in the local newspapers. One of his better known poems, "Footprints," is composed of three stanzas, the first of which is

FOOTPRINTS

I stand on the verge of Eternity,
Look back on the footprints of Time;
Before me the world in confusion,
Nothing to constrain or confine,
Nothing more than a wasted desert --
The suffering of humankind --
The rise and fall of the nations
As they rise and fall in time.¹²

7. An architectural oddity of Clarksville, now the office of the Department of Electricity, was at one time, the postoffice. Its Chinese design recalls to mind that its designer, Captain David Murphey, also wrote verse. Commemorating his days in a prison in China, when he was befriended by a Chinese girl, he has left these lines:

FATE

Two shall be born long leagues apart,
Distant as palm and pine;
Wide areas cross each, pure in heart,
And meet without design.
Love match at sight, their joy is great,
And Cupid smiles, but it is Fate.

12. Hugh Elzie Martin, "Footprints," The Spirit of the Free, edited by Ruth Lawrence, p. 307. New York: The Haven Press, 1944.

Two shall be born on the same square,
 At school stand side by side,
 The one grow strong, the other fair,
 And close friends they abide.
 Love thralls them not, nor do they mate,
 And Cupid weeps, but it is Fate.¹³

Perhaps this is typical of the work of the novice in the late nineteenth century; much of this type verse did not reach the printer except through the local newspaper.

8. A small volume of poetry entitled Lenora and Other Poems¹⁴ came from the pen of Walter Drane Martin, grandson of the eminent Gustavus A. Henry. This book of sentimental verse has local attachment to friends of the author.

9. Will T. Hale, lawyer, journalist, and historian, was also interested in the writing of verse which has evidence of nostalgia in its lines which are frequently quoted. His small books of poetry, Showers and Sunshine, The Backward Trail, and An Autumn Lane, are indicative of the verse which was popular in the parlors of the turn of the century. The title poem, "An Autumn Lane," is introduced with these lines:

13. David Murphey, "Fate," in the private collection of Judge and Mrs. Dancey Fort.

14. Walter Drane Martin, Lenora and Other Poems. Nashville: Smith and Lamar, 1909.

AN AUTUMN LANE

1

The farthest hills that vaguely are outlined
 Are loveliest to the dreamer's pensive view;
 The dearest years are those that lie behind,
 Far off and dim in recollection's blue.
 I loiter, therefore, in the autumn lane
 That leads to where my earlier years were spent;
 Old forms, old thoughts, old faiths come back again
 As all the past is with the present blent.¹⁵

The twentieth century with its emancipated women found a vocal group whose prolific outbursts varied from the expression of one's deep and intimate thoughts to the universal truths which lay within and around one. Local clubs, prompted by the organization of Chautauqua study groups, were formed for discussion and for self-expression.

Being multiple in their interests, these clubs became more disciplined and restrictive in their expression. From the Magazine Club, the Art Study Club, the Students Club, their interests more and more circumscribed, was born the Clarksville Writer's League, organized in 1933. However, at the next meeting the name was changed to The Pen Woman's Circle. This organization presented an opportunity for its members to share their expression and criticism. Stories and poems were read; the membership expanded from the original group of twenty-three charter members.

15. Will T. Hale, An Autumn Lane. Nashville: Publishing House M. E. Church, South, 1899.

10. Publication of poems by these authors has been limited in most cases to newspaper columns. In many local contests the work of Mrs. Mary Enola Rudolph was winner, with that of Mrs. Jennie Larkin Hord consistently placing second.

11.-12. The two very small printed booklets of verse¹⁶ from the pen of Mrs. H. M. Lupton bear witness to her zeal and interest. The work of Mrs. M. H. Gholson reflected her intimate acquaintance with Greek mythological figures, their characters and symbolism.

Great is the contrast between the writing of these novices and the three modern poets whose lives have been touched by their days and years in Montgomery County. The works of Allen Tate, Robert Penn Warren, and Evelyn Scott are to be found in many volumes of poetry.

These three have done much in the modern style. It is true that some have felt that the modern poet is endowed with technical competence but writes with calculated complexity. He is no longer the historian, the patriot, the priest, or the prophet; he writes for the few, not the masses; he writes for his peers, not the public; he speaks a language learned from much education, but without elucidation.

16. Mrs. H. M. Lupton, Program, and A Gipsy Passes
 By. In private collection of Mrs. Jennie Larkin Hord.

The poet of old was the companion of youth and age; the poet of the present limits his acquaintance. However, not all the lines from the pen of the modern writers are difficult to interpret; there are poignant and meaningful poems from the hand of each of these moderns.

13. Allen Tate is perhaps best known for his "Ode to the Confederate Dead," of which he writes in the Preface to Selected Poems:

"Ode to the Confederate Dead" begun in December 1926, has now been finished in November 1936. I have repeatedly asked other poets to help me with this poem, which I felt was beyond my powers. In 1931 Mr. Robert Penn Warren contributed one line, in my opinion its best. The poem is still not what I should like it to be, yet for the first time I see in it no blemish of detail that I myself can hope to remove. . . .

I am frequently asked how I can bring myself to violate the original experience that must have informed some poem, by revising it at a later time when my experience must be different. My only answer is that, as a poet, my concern is with the experience that I hope the reader will have in reading the poem.¹⁷

Some have attributed the inspiration of this poem to the Cemetery at Fort Donelson; that is unlikely, for Tate had not resided in this area as early as 1926, and furthermore there are few Confederate dead who are endowed with lettered headstones. The opening lines would indicate a Confederate burial place, perhaps in Virginia:

17. Allen Tate, Selected Poems, p. ix. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937.

ODE TO THE CONFEDERATE DEAD¹⁸

Row after row with strict impunity
 The headstones yield their names to the elements,
 The wind whirrs without recollection;

The final lines are poignant with meaning:

Leave now

The shut gate and the decomposing wall;
 The gentle serpent, green in the mulberry bush,
 Riots with his tongue through the hush --
 Sentinel of the grave who counts us all!

Tate has been quoted from a Symposium in 1932:

Poetry does not dispense with tradition; it probes the deficiencies of a tradition, . . . The prior conditions for great poetry, given a great talent, are two: the thoroughness of the poet's discipline in a great objective system of "truths," and his lack of consciousness of such a discipline."¹⁹

Because of his poetic philosophy, his imagery and poetic oppositions he has been described as a "metaphysical" poet.

14. Robert Penn Warren, contemporary and associate of Allen Tate, may have been influenced more than Tate by the locale of Montgomery County, for his home lay in the adjoining Todd County, Kentucky, and he attended high school in Clarksville. His life parallels that of Tate in some respects, such as their contributions to the Fugitive, their being awarded prizes and fellowships, and their

18. Ibid., pp. 21-25.

19. Fred B. Millett, Contemporary American Authors, p. 609. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1943.

being instructors in certain colleges and universities.

Warren, in the Note to a volume of poetry²⁰ published in 1943, divides the poems into two sections, the Recent and the Early. Of the latter he states, "The Early poems belong to the previous decade, some of them going back into student days." Although he is evidently referring to the student days at Vanderbilt, one may believe that his youth provided the impressions revealed in "Kentucky Mountain Farm" which is made up of six parts. "Part IV, The Cardinal" demonstrates his concern for the contrasts in nature:

THE CARDINAL

Cardinal, lover of shade. . .
 Rock and gold is the land in the pulsing noon.
 Lover of cedar, lover of shade. . .
 Blue is the shadow of cedar on grey limestone,
 Where the lizard, devout as an ikon,
 Is carved on the stone, throat pulsing on
 lichen. . . .²¹

It has been said of Warren that he avoids the obscurity of Tate and the icy indirection of Ransom.

. . . his verse transmits with ingratiating directness the rich warm southern earth and its regional characters. Complexity and indirection are present, but they are kept vital by Warren's unbroken contact with the fecund earth.²²

20. Robert Penn Warren, Robert Penn Warren: Selected Poems, 1923-1943. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1942.

21. Ibid., p. 81.

22. Millett, op. cit., p. 147.

15. Evelyn Scott is the pen name of Elsie Dunn, formerly of Clarksville. Her two volumes of poetry in the modern manner are Precipitations and The Winter Alone.

Her personal philosophy regarding the material and its sources is somewhat like that expressed by Allen Tate. Evelyn Scott states:

. . . I think the material of a vital art is "realistic" in its sources (whatever the individual interpretation) and in all significant creative expression there is some reflection from the creator's own times. But "inspiration" is a quality of personality, and all art utterance -- even in the name of the majority -- is "conditioned" in a very individual sense. The logical representation of pure machine culture would be at once formal and characterless.²³

The creative expression is demonstrated in her lines:²⁴

SHE DIES

(To my mother, Maude Thomas Dunne [sic] -- 1940)

Stunned looks of patience have recast this face:
The brow is stern, serene, augustly high,
Remolding, from exhausted commonplace,
The setting for the visionary eye
That dimly and aloofly scans this race
It loves no more (these lips forebear to lie!)
These fever-breathing nostrils scent the grace,
The air, the cold nobility of sky.

The travail of the years still mounts until
This bitter mouth is hers who drinks her fill,
At last; and drains a goblet of pure snow:
The glance acknowledging the end too slow,
Unfathomable, like the moon's clear stare,
Making her pillow terrible and fair.

23. Millett, op. cit., p. 570.

24. Evelyn Scott, "She Dies," The Saturday Review, (January 29, 1949), p. 10.

The death of her mother and the interment in Clarks-ville marked the climax of her interest in a seemingly unsympathetic city. However, as the years have passed she has indicated her attachment for this town, if not for its people, through correspondence with a young friend, Robert Bradley. Her personal letters to him indicate the changes which the years have brought to this individual in whom warmth and cold are so intermingled as to have created a person who has challenged conventions yet has likewise sought shelter within them.

By what then shall we judge verse or poetry?

Hamilton Wright Mabie declares:

. . . if it gives language to the experiences and emotions which are universal; if it confirms high aims and strengthens honorable ambitions; if it interprets life nobly and brings into lonely homes the thoughts that have stirred the world; if it touches hard conditions and arduous work with the light of the imagination, it will fulfill the purpose. . . of beauty and joy and strength. . . .²⁵

25. Hamilton Wright Mabie, Young Folks' Treasury, Vol. XI, p. xxv. New York: The University Society Inc., 1909.

B. Musical Lyrics

Introduction: Lyrics are verses which are accompanied by melody created by man. Music is native in man. He is a born musical instrument by reason of his voice and even of his hands and feet that keep time to vocal measures.

The plain people in all lands sang the music that rose from their hearts and gave color through tone to their lives. Songs and chants of home, of love, of social fellowship, of religion, and of country reveal the heart of a people more clearly than do their rules and laws.

The songs of the people of the Cumberland were brought by the early settlers. Based upon the old English ballads of their forebears, they were intoned at appropriate times and occasions. We read of these unusual melodies and tones:

The airs to which folk poems are sung are traditionally nonharmonic and constitute a flexible melodic accompaniment, remarkably well-suited to the poetry. Folk tunes recognize no allegiance to the modern tempered or chromatic scale of tones, nor do they necessarily maintain their original meter throughout. Many of the melodies which are still sung in the South are neither major nor harmonic minor in tonality, but modal like medieval ecclesiastical music.²⁶

26. Richmond Croom Beatty, Floyd C. Watkins, and Thomas Daniel Young, The Literature of the South, p. 618. Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1952.

A slight effect may be found of the Cherokee Indian who had intermarried with the Negro, as in the spirituals recorded by Roland Hayes, an offspring of such a marriage. Negro spirituals offered hope and solace, while chants inspirited the laboring family in the fields or in the tobacco factory. Handlers of heavy burdens toiled in rhythm to their work-chanteys as had done the English sailor before them.

In more recent years the songs of love, of loneliness and joy, have become popular. New mediums of reaching the public have made possible the ready market for the popular songs of varying types written by a number of Tennesseans.

Writers and Collectors

1. Perhaps the earliest collection of songs published in Clarksville was War Songs of the South as sung by the Forbes Bivouac Memorial Club and sold for the benefit of a Confederate Monument at Clarksville. There are no original songs in the booklet of twenty-eight pages, but all were popular "songs that warmed and stirred the hearts of the Southern people in the time of the great civil war."²⁷

2. George W. Boswell has collected folk songs throughout Tennessee and in 1950 he published a group of

²⁷. War Songs of the South, p. iii. Clarksville: Brandon and Barksdale (circa 1885-1890).

these songs with musical arrangements by Charles F. Bryan. This booklet "Tennessee Folk Songs" was for use in the Tennessee public schools. Boswell is also author of "Instructional Handbook in Music," an aid in sight-reading of religious music when no instrument is used.

3. One of the great Negro tenors of all times, Roland Hayes, gave his first concert in Clarksville where he worked in a tobacco factory to supplement his tuition fees at Fisk.

His recently published book, My Songs -- Afro-American Religious Folk Songs Arranged and Interpreted by the Author, reveals his pride in the songs of his ancestors as they have been adapted by the American Negro.

The story of his life is one of struggle against unrecognized odds, of dedication to his music, of successful interpretation of the songs of all time.²⁸

Hayes has stated:

The Negro has his God-given music to bring to the sum total of good in the world. His future lies in the recognition of his heritage, the preservation of the songs of his fathers. My purpose is the creation of beauty and the encouragement of my race to create the beauty in its power. I have my head uncovered before my purpose at all times; I never approach it without earnestness.²⁹

28. MacKinley Helm, Angel Mo' and her Son, Roland Hayes. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1942.

29. Maxine Block, editor, Current Biography, 1942, p. 353. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1942.

4. Clarksville was the birthplace of Clarence Cameron White, the noted Negro violinist and composer. It was he who became noted for his many compositions for the violin and orchestra and the composition of many Negro spirituals including Bandanna Sketches, From the Cotton Fields, and Cabin Memories.³⁰

Of him Maud Cuney-Hare stated, "White sought possibilities in the Negro folk music as a source of art forms and particularly for the violin and piano and for voice."³¹

Of White's vision and purpose Cuney-Hare reports:

Although handicapped by the artist's usual lack of means, White has courageously worked toward his goal and has never for a moment swerved from the high ideals of a true musician. He is an outstanding example of the consistent growth of a composer who mastered his technic so as not to be restricted to a verbatim interpretation of Negro melodies. His use of the themes has proved the stylistic adaptability of the same and his compositions show a universal unity based upon a diverse racial expression.³²

5. Bryan Dority, gifted young composer and recipient of numerous musical awards, composed the music and lyrics for the Alma Mater of the Clarksville High School while there as a student. Since that time he has studied in

30. Who's Who in America, 1952-1953, p. 2587.
Chicago: A. N. Marquis Company, 1953.

31. Maud Cuney-Hare, Negro Musicians and Their Music, p. 330. Washington: The Associated Publishers, Inc., 1936.

32. Ibid., p. 333.

America and in Europe, achieving much recognition for his composition of chamber music, quartets for stringed instruments, cycles of songs, and overtures and operas.

At the age of ten he composed his first operetta, The Gingerbread Boy, which was presented at the White's Chapel School by his fellow students.³³

6. Perhaps best known for his lyrics and musical compositions in recent years is Francis Craig, who characterizes his music

as on the "smooth and pleasing" side, partly attributable to the instrumental makeup of the band which he maintains more or less constant -- four saxophones, three brasses (two trumpets and a trombone) and three rhythms (piano, string bass and drum).³⁴

Craig resided in Clarksville where his father was a Methodist minister. After moving to Nashville Craig became well known for "Red Rose," "Near You," "Tennessee Tango," and many other songs.

7. Beasley Smith, a resident of Clarksville during his boyhood, is credited with a number of lyrics and compositions. Among these are the ever-popular "The Old Master Painter," "That Lucky Old Sun," and "A Man and a Mountain."

8. A writer of modern folksongs, several of which have a relationship to the white spiritual, is Roy Acuff.

33. Letter from his mother, Mrs. W. F. Dority to Ursula Lee Smith. Letter in collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

34. Pamphlet from Francis Craig in collection of Ursula Lee Smith.

In recent years he has acquired property in Montgomery County where he spends part of his time. Among his personal favorites are his compositions "The Great Speckled Bird," "The Wabash Cannon Ball," "Pins and Needles," and "Low and Lonely."

These composers and collectors have been joined by many singers of all types of music who have contributed to the cultural growth of the community. Pleasure has been brought to many through music in the schools and churches, and in the homes through the radio and recordings.

The purpose of the historical method of research, and the literary history of the community

is to

This chapter is to convey to the reader the conclusions and recommendations reached in the study. This chapter is organized in the following manner: A. Values of the Study; B. Uses of the Study; C. Summary of the Materials; D. Summary of the Research.

The purpose of the study

was to determine the factors which attracted the

people to the community of the

community and to determine the

factors which have become

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CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study has been to locate and to analyze the literary production of the residents of Montgomery County, Tennessee. An effort was made to evaluate their work in the light of the influence of their residence in this area and to determine the quality of service rendered to their fellowmen through their literary achievements.

Through the use of the historical method of research, the development of the literary history of the community has been demonstrated.

The purpose of this chapter is to convey to the reader those pertinent conclusions and recommendations resulting from this study. This chapter is organized in the following manner: A. Values of the Study; B. Uses of the Materials for Further Research; C. Uses of the Materials in Teaching; and D. Review of Research.

A. Values of the Study

Research into local materials has not attracted the student in the South as it has in other sections of the nation. The people themselves have erected certain barriers, which, fortunately in recent years, have become

less formidable. With the removal of this emotional barricade the Southerner may discover reasons for the exodus of much Southern talent, literary and scientific.

A more vigorous general development of the research spirit among the social scientists in Southern universities and colleges is highly desirable from a number of viewpoints. One of these is that this part of the country has the responsibility of making its proper contribution to the growth of those fields of knowledge. . . . Southern teachers, in common with all others, require the development of their research capabilities, as one college president in this part of the country says, "to save their intellectual souls," and to give vitality to their teaching.¹

Comment is frequently made concerning the noteworthy contribution of the South in superior talent to other parts of the nation. Such remark usually carries with it the implied feeling that the region has given in larger measure than it has received in return. While it is true that the splendid achievement of these Southern-born affords additional prestige to the region of their nativity, it is felt that this factor is but a meager return for the impoverishment which the process has occasioned in the quickening forces in the life of the South.²

The value of this study will ultimately be determined by the effect that it has upon its readers.

From this study it is believed that the following advantages may accrue:

1. An appreciation for the recorded facts of the past and present, for teachers and students will be made aware of the accurate and authentic records now available.

1. Wilson Gee, Research Barriers in the South, p. 1. New York: The Century Company, 1932.

2. Ibid., p. 21.

2. Respect for the achievements of persons of the past and present, which will stimulate the desire for information of their lives and their activities.

3. Awareness of these figures of national literary and historical importance, which will foster a pride in the reflection of these figures upon their environment.

B. Uses of the Materials for Further Research

It is believed that the findings of this study will motivate and aid further research:

1. Through use as a survey of contribution to education, religion, literature, and history of the community.

2. Through use of the sources of data.

C. Uses of the Materials in Teaching

The material of a literary history is applicable to both the Social Studies departments and the Literature departments of the schools of the community. In the light of certain objectives of these two departments it is suggested that this literary history may be used as source material for instructional purposes.

1. In the Social Studies

a. Objectives:

- (1) To develop an appreciation of our social heritage so as to learn to recognize these values.

- (2) To understand the relationship of events which have shaped our environment.
- (3) To esteem the contributions of the men of the past to today's cultural status.
- (4) To use better and more-varied local resource materials and techniques.
- (5) To broaden the scope of social studies through use of materials drawn from the literary fields.
- (6) To learn the technique of finding, organizing, and evaluating materials in making use of the scientific approach to historical truth.

b. Technics:

- (1) Group projects:
 - (a) Making surveys of correlated materials.
 - (b) Making reports: Panel; Group.
 - (c) Preparation of programs: Assembly; Class; Club.
 - (d) Dramatization of historic events.
 - (e) Field trips to places of interest.
 - (f) Guest speakers on local resources.
- (2) Individual projects:
 - (a) Writing: Essays; Biographies; Brief Histories.

- (b) Reading: Listed works of authors; Biographical data.
- (c) Listening: Additional history and other factual data.

2. In Literature

a. Objectives:

- (1) To enrich our lives by reviewing some of the experiences of our predecessors.
- (2) To effect vicarious participation in the intellectual growth of our ancestors.
- (3) To observe man's contribution to his fellowman in service and in pleasure.
- (4) To recognize our heritage of works of literature.
- (5) To cultivate aesthetic, intellectual, and critical interests.
- (6) To use leisure time well through activities which are socially useful and individually satisfying.
- (7) To promote growth in the ability to think rationally, to express thoughts clearly, and to listen with understanding.

b. Technics:

- (1) Group projects:
 - (a) Making surveys of correlated materials.

- (b) Making reports: Panel; Group.
- (c) Preparation of programs: Assembly; Class; Club.
- (d) Dramatization of historic events.
- (e) Field trips to places of interest.
- (f) Guest speakers on local resources.
- (2) Individual projects:
 - (a) Writing:
 - Essays: factual and critical.
 - Biographies.
 - Dramatizations.
 - (b) Reading:
 - Study of types of literature; use of examples.
 - Lives of authors.
 - Additional works of authors.
 - Study of comments by competent critics.
 - Proper use of Bibliography.
 - Use of library to locate materials.
 - Independent research into additional authors.
 - (c) Listening:
 - Oral reading of all types of literature.
 - Programs by local resource people.
 - Interviews with authors and others.

(d) Speech:

- Delivery of orations.
- Re-enactment of debates.
- Presentation of dramatic sketches.

D. Review of Research

Social-studies research has been conducted since 1916 when the term, social studies, came into being. Such research has evolved into that of the present period, which is said to be

. . . characterized by increased attention to the social setting, by efforts to build new curriculums which are more reflective of society and of the functional needs of students, and by attempts to measure and evaluate outcomes beyond the informational.

. . . perhaps somewhat less faith is being attached to statistical studies, and somewhat more reliance is being placed upon judgments of value.³

Few strictly controlled studies have been made in the field of literature, as "the greater part of the published articles on the teaching of literature are statements of opinion or reports of partially controlled experimentation."⁴

The reason for this lack of factual information is fairly obvious. "The desired outcomes of literature do not lend themselves to quantitative measurement."⁵

3. Walter S. Monroe, Encyclopedia of Educational Research, p. 1215. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1950.

4. Ibid., p. 397.

5. Ibid.

Dora A. Smith in "Instruction in English" reports that the aims of literature are (1) vicarious experience, (2) standards for future reading, (3) knowledge of literary types, (4) character and ideals, and (5) enjoyment.⁶ It is easily recognized that objective investigations can seldom be concerned with these intangible qualities.

In view of the limited research into local resource materials the recent announcement of two current studies is highly pleasing. Of interest to Montgomery Countians will be the completion of dissertations for the Ph. D. degree by Prof. Paul Hyatt and Prof. Robert Welker, respectively.

Prof. Paul Hyatt, instructor in History and Sociology at Austin Peay State College, will write a history of the Leaf-Chronicle as his dissertation in completing work on his Ph. D. degree at George Peabody College in Nashville.

Prof. Robert Welker, former resident of Clarksville and at present instructor in English at Vanderbilt University, has chosen a study of three notable authors of the area for his dissertation in completion of his work for the Ph. D. degree at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. His ultimate aim is to relate to the regional background the

6. Dora V. Smith, "Instruction in English," U. S. Office of Education, Bulletin 192. No. 17. Encyclopedia of Educational Research, p. 397. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1950.

art and philosophy of the three authors, Caroline Gordon, Robert Penn Warren, and Evelyn Scott.

The completion of these studies is anticipated with great interest, for they will be contributions to a community awakening to its heritage and cultural resources.

It is concluded that this study, "A Literary History of Montgomery County, Tennessee," offers tangible information for use in the schools of Montgomery County, and that it opens the way for additional research in social studies, literature, and other areas of interest.

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