

*Biographical Sketch of Nancy Vaughan,
A Legacy of Outlaws, Born of the Civil War*

By Helen Vaughan Michael

Introduction to My Vaughan Narratives

. . . Enquire I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers; for we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow. . .
Job, IX: 8 & 9. KJV

In my search for ancestors I have been aggravated by finding that--this record exists here and that record exists there, and that there exists family talk linking the two, but, no paper trail between them can be found. Recent news that in Texas old boxed up paper files are turning to dust means that more written family history could be disappearing. Add these to files that have gone up before in the fire and smoke of homes, churches, courthouses, and government buildings. Most of my family trees have suffered heavily from such losses.

The Vaughans suffered the least. Thanks to my great-great-great grandmother, Nancy Callicott Vaughan, one of the branches of my family tree left a fine paper trail to accommodate my talkative kin and my need to write down everything I hear. Sometimes I see a story emerge from what I've heard and what has been written, and most of the time the spoken word and the written word actually match up and form a fact about the Vaughans. Then, the loose ends, when played with, and trailed through American history, can turn into quite a yarn. Being in love with the English language, I spin words into my stories for fun. Loving history, I write to record what facts are still readable, combine them with stories Vaughan chroniclers have told, and in effect, use facts for fun and family. Along the way a photo or relic or letter has turned up here and there to help sort out the fibs from the facts. The final result is--my folks get to take up a page in the annals of their nation's history, which, though un-named, they helped to make. Sometimes, as in the case of James L. Vaughan, they should have been named

The whatifs, the wudduh-cudduh-shudduhs, and the maybes expressed in my stories are products of a blend of curiosity and imagination and are intended to provide interest and provoke my descendants, and others, to keep digging before all they have to dig through is ashes and dust. The views expressed and the questions I raise are my own. Tim Childress provides a repository at his website, <http://www.childresscousins.org>, to preserve my old-fashioned, often flowery, ramblings, in case I am on to something. Being deeply motivated by belief in a spiritual world—motivation that might be viewed in some circles as insanity—I always feel one ancestor or another may be reading over my shoulder, saying, "It's about time."

Helen Vaughan Michael
2/20/2013

Biographical Sketch of Nancy Vaughan: *A Legacy of Outlaws, Born of the Civil War*

1. NAMES AND PLACES
2. CIVIL WAR AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE FEUD
3. THE EFFECT OF CIVIL WAR ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NANCY VAUGHAN HICKMAN
4. THE OUTLAW ERA



Co D, 2nd Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, USA

Tintype

Active July 1862 to July 6, 1865

Country United States

Allegiance Union

Branch Cavalry

Engagements:

Battle of Stones River

Tullahoma Campaign

Battle of Chickamauga

Battle of Nashville

1. NAMES AND PLACES

Nancy Vaughan was born in 1807, the third daughter of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan, and with the exception of her brother James L., lived the most extraordinary life of all her siblings. The future mother of a son rumored to be a convicted criminal, Nancy was destined to become the grandmother of an actual gang of outlaws. Ultimately, the star-crossed little Vaughan girl may have lived long enough to see her own home turned into an assassin's den. In 1899 it was used as a hideout from which the alleged wrongdoers made plans to defend one of their own. In 1870 Nancy had given her daughter Ann and her Flannery family a place to stay; thirty years later they were still there, and her grandsons stood at the windows of the house that had cradled them, waiting to ambush and kill the men who had come hoping to arrest one of them. If Nancy still lived to see the warfare made upon her hearth and home, waged by or against her own flesh and blood, she would have been in her early nineties.

Right: Excerpt, *The Big Stone Gap Post*, January 26, 1899

Baby Nancy's mother gave birth January 19, 1807 in Hawkins County, Tennessee. Nancy the elder entered her new baby's name simply as Nancy Vaughan in her book of baby birthdays, but, since the younger Nancy grew up, married, and eventually had a daughter named Ann, there is a calculated chance that her mother named her, Nancy Ann, and as with her other children, did not register the middle name. On the 1920 death certificate of Martha Jane Hickman Allen--the daughter of 1807's Nancy--the informant, who was an in-law, filled in "Nancy Jane" as the name for the "Name of mother" of the deceased, but mistakes are common in the information left by distraught informants and distant relatives. Actually, Nancy of 1807 had a sister born in 1815 named "Jane," Martha Jane Vaughan Davis--thus, her own daughter, Martha Jane. Additionally, her siblings and their descendants saw fit to name more than a few of their daughters, Nancy Ann. For clarity, if not historical purposes, Nancy Ann refers to Nancy the younger at times in this biography. Right, Detail, Page 2, Daybook.

In the history of all mountain feuds, nothing is recorded that equals the shooting from Bob Flanery's house. The ambushing party was shooting at four men that had a prisoner and four horses, and neither the prisoner or horses were touched by a bullet fired from the house; while every man shot at was hit, some of them twice. This evinces two things, they will and can shoot; that they shoot for game and get it.

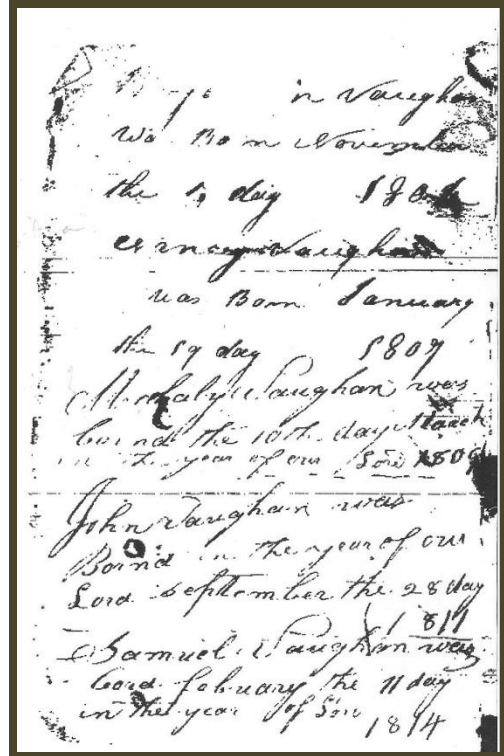
It is to be regretted greatly that Will Flanery was not brought to justice, for he certainly is guilty of a very willful murder.

—

A dispatch from Rogersville, Tenn., states that Pat Flanery was arrested in that place Monday, and is now confined in the Rogersville jail.

Nancy Vaughan
was born January
the 19 day 1807

In 1807 Thomas Jefferson was President, at the end of his second term. Jefferson's land policies would one day provide some of Nancy's kinfolk with a place to roam further west, to escape the Civil War, or to flee from authority. But not this child; Nancy was born in Hawkins County, later called Hancock, and she lived her whole life not far from the house in which she was born. Her life, as vividly as any historical figure, spreads out a nineteenth century vista that parades the rise and fall of northeastern Tennessee, from in the beginning--when it started out as a community of gentlemen farmers envisioned by Jefferson--to the traumatic aftermath of a civil war that no one could have imagined. When vengeful acts of post war hatred portrayed the country thereabouts in bloody red murders, there, shadowed in the mayhem of heartbreaking feuds, stood Nancy's home in the middle of it all. More than one thousand Civil War battles were fought over Tennessee's rivers and railroads, its industries and farmlands--scarring the landscape of the entire state. A war of Tennesseans fighting against other Tennesseans scarred the souls of the people in Hancock and Hawkins County. As soldiers shot at each other through the fog of war, an uncivil war was carried on amongst civilians in Nancy's own neighborhood. There, men came to blows over who should have what and over what should be believed. Nowhere was the division between Tennessee's Unionists and Confederates more hateful than in Hancock County, Nancy's little piece of the warring world.

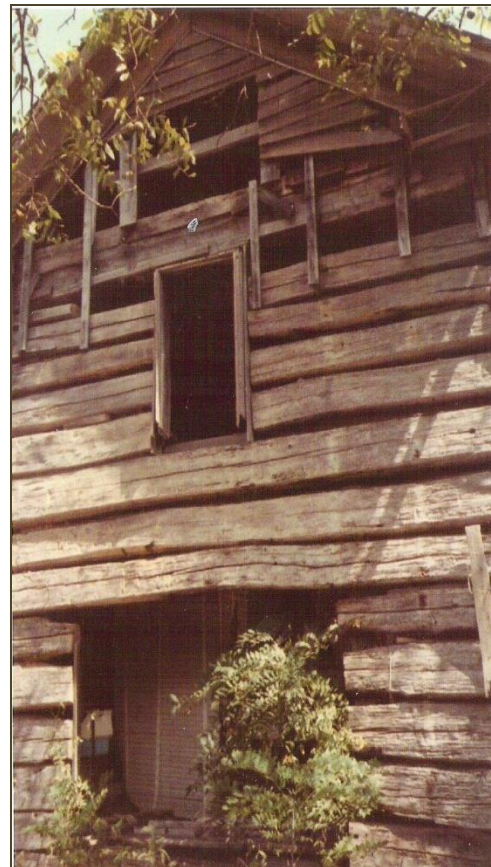


Below: 1800 Vaughan family home.
From Mabel Harp Photo Collection

It all began for Nancy at Valley Forge, 1777, the day her father signed up to fight the British army of King George III. John Vaughan was a patriot of the American Revolution and was well-compensated in money and land for his service. Some of his land was in Virginia, where, after marriage, Nancy Ann's parents settled in Halifax. Their first two little boys, James L. and Beverley, were Virginians. They moved from Halifax, and about the year 1800 they arrived in Hawkins County to a spot near the Virginia border, where other clans—among them that of David Hickman, the future husband of Nancy Ann--also settled. This northernmost part of Hawkins County was later changed to Hancock and gave future generations of Vaughans a change of address. But the house they either bought or built stayed, and the weathered edifice is still standing over two hundred years later. Nancy Ann was born in it and joined her fellow Tennesseans who were born in it--Mary Polly, seven, Rebecca Greaser, five, and Benjamin, three. The Vaughan household numbered eight.

Mahala came next, and in 1808 their mother's older sister, Dicey Callicott Vaughan Ford, moved into the Hawkins neighborhood. Perhaps it was Dicey who helped with the birth of new nieces and nephews. Perhaps she even kept up their records, for after 1807 the handwriting changed as the name and day of birth were entered in her sister's baby book. Little Nancy's entry was the last written in her mother's script.
Top right, Page 2, Daybook.

In those bygone days, children earned their keep and were valuable assets to pioneer families. Even while small



they were taught how to do simple but vital chores—feeding chickens, gathering eggs, and even helping in the fields where they could. Working in the fields, they enjoyed the excitement of discovering a bird's nest, chasing butterflies, and picking wildflowers. Daughters helped mothers with household chores and tending smaller siblings. Nancy Ann surely had a doll and may have claimed a favorite spot in the woods where she could play house with her sisters. Perhaps taught by Mary Polly, she may have learned to read, but, for the probable lack of paper and pen—or, slate and chalk, she never claimed she could write. Down the road, which she could not see, newspapers describing the future deeds of her notorious grandsons would have made reading a thrilling adventure.

The birth of Mahala in 1809 was followed by three more brothers—John Jr., Samuel N., and George Washington, plus her sister Martha Jane, so that the patter of little feet was heard in the two-story log home until after 1820. By then, Nancy's two oldest brothers, James L. and Beverley, had moved west and started families; her sisters Mary Polly and Rebecca Greaser left in the early twenties, leaving her, for quite a while, the eldest daughter in the Vaughan home.

1840 Hawkins County Federal Census:
Location of Hickman Home. This part of
Hawkins County changed to Hancock, 1844.

(No. 4.)

Hawkins County 1840

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.		Dist.	No.
brought forward		573	
Littellon Kayser			
Peter Leavin			
Daniel Wright			
Edya White		1	
Jacob Price		2	
Theoderick Webb			
Michael Shank		2	
Polly Shepphine			
Anson Johnson			
Willie B. Kensus		2	
George W. Hueston			
John S. Brown		1	
Winstead Cobb			
Elizabeth Milam		1	
<u>Benjamin Vaughan</u>		3	
James Collicot			
James C. Ford			
Ruth Gibbons		1	
William Ford			
Beverly Ford			
<u>John Vaughan, jr</u>		2	
David Hickman		1	
<u>Samuel Vaughan</u>		2	
John Collicot			
John Edens		2	
William Church			
Attieva Surgeon			
Henry Church		1	
Peter Fields		2	
Josiah Bradley		1	

Birthday records for her first baby, Martha Jane, indicate that Nancy Ann remained unmarried until her late twenties. Then, when she left home, she only moved next door. After her marriage to David Hickman in the mid 1830's, the couple moved into the Hawkins, Tennessee address they would call home for the rest of their lives. There were several Hickmans paying taxes and voting in the district, and though there is no data proving David came from one of these families, he probably did, since the children of this Vaughan family nearly always married the boy or girl next door, or thereabouts. By 1840, at age thirty-three, Nancy and her husband shared their residence with their daughter, Martha Jane, and son, James. **See 1840 Census, Left.** Her father died two years later, leaving a record of her married name in his will. Near the end of 1841, in Hawkins County, Tennessee, her father wrote in part,

*I, John Vaughan, do make this my last Will & Testament:
Tenth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Hickman \$1.00.
This 27th day of December, 1841.
John his x mark Vaughan.*

Her brothers Benjamin, John, Jr., and Samuel N. inherited property on which they were already living, property that rested to either side of the Hickman plot, when their father died in the summer of '42. Since her residence lies smack dab in the middle, between the fence lines of her brothers, it's very likely she had been given a dowry of this Vaughan land by her father at the time of her marriage to David Hickman.

David Hickman was born about 1805, but not many records exist on his roots. Of the Hickmans listed on the 1836 Hawkins County Tax and Voters List, there is a Jonathan Hickman, a Prisula Hickman, and a Joseph Hickman in Civil District 9 for the 1836 election; there is some evidence that his father's name was Joseph. There is no Hancock County yet, but these voters are located in the Stanley Valley Knobs area, "opposite to Cornelius Carmack's Spring, then crossing the creek to Stanley Valley." The Carmacks are friends of Nancy Ann's father from his army days and also from a shared Irish neighborhood in Maryland. The Hickmans are settled in Civil District 4, where David Hickman is registered: "Beginning at the top of Clinch mountain at Little War Gap, thence with the road leading to Lee County, Virginia state line thence east with said

line to the top of Clinch mountain," which would one day form a portion of the north border of Hancock. The election was to be held at George Anderson's, her mother's friend and neighbor in 1858. In 1836 John Vaughan, Sr. is listed with his taxpaying sons--Benjamin, John, Jr., and Samuel N., even though he and wife Nancy Callicott had moved five or six miles south, down to Poor Valley in 1832, according to the words of his widow in her 1858 application for a pension:

. . . that we settled on or near Clinch river some 5 or 6 miles from here where I now live. and that we lived there all the while until about the year 1832 at which time my husband bought land on this side of Clinch mountain, and we moved over here in this valley, called then and now, Poor Valley.

Subsequent census records show David and Nancy Ann Hickman owning substantial acreage in Hawkins County--later Hancock County, as it was called after 1844--and their property always laid in proximity to the farms which the three Vaughan brothers inherited from their father in 1842. There is no record of the Hickmans leaving a will, but they, in turn, seem to section off their land to their children. When their sons were grown, the Hickmans parceled out hundreds of acres to each one and perhaps some to their daughter Martha Jane, with her marriage to Garrett Allen. This practice of handing down farmland to living children lasted among Vaughan families until after the Great Depression of the 1930's when the giant conglomerates of agri-business took over the growing of things, causing the American family farm to practically disappear.

Census records show that three sons and two daughters were born to the Hickmans. Martha Jane was born in 1834, James D. in 1836, George W. in 1840, Daniel P. in 1842, and Ann in 1848. Ann is a toddler in 1850, and with her brothers and sisters enrolled in school, the farm family looks like an American icon that Thomas Jefferson could be proud of. (next page)

Two years following the death of Nancy's father, her brother Samuel N. lost his father-in-law, Henry Church. The Church will was witnessed by David Hickman.

Excerpt--Will Of Henry Church, Page 114, Dated: Nov 5, 1844 Proven: December Term, 1844 I, Henry Church, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time made. First. I direct that my funeral expenses and all my debts be paid. . . . Secondly. I do give and bequeath to my beloved wife Allice Church all the residue of my property consisting of all my household and kitchen furniture with all the stock to wit: Horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, geese and poltry of all kinds. Also all my farming tools & mechanic tools, also one still cup and worm and a quantity of tubs and all the grain that is upon the farm during her life or widowhood. . . . Lastly. I do hereby nominate and appoint William Church & Beverly C. Ford my Executors. In witness whereof I do to this my last will set my hand and seal this, the fifth day of November, 1844. Henry x Church (seal) (his X mark)

Signed, sealed & published in our presence and we have subscribed our names hereto in the presence of the Testator Nov. The 5th, 1844.

B. C. Ford,

David x Hickman, (Husband of Nancy Vaughan)

Henry Reed.

Due to a bureaucratic name change, in four years the people on the Hawkins census would become residents of Hancock County. The 1840 list will become a family and friends and foes album of Nancy and her siblings; these are folks who script the turbulent post-war history of Hancock County until 1900. The lives of the Vaughans who will inherit the lands and tenements associated with the old home place become forever intertwined—for better or worse—with the lives of their neighbors of 1840. *Wright, Price, Webb, Shank, Johnson, Brown, Eden, and Fields* are family names that mix and mingle with those of the Vaughan, Callicott, Ford, Hickman, Church, and Surginor families for the next sixty years. For instance, when post war feuding leads to lawmen being shot while they are at the David and Nancy Vaughan Hickman home, the wounded and dying are carried off to the Hiram Church residence—that is, from the home of Samuel N. Vaughan's sister to the home of his wife's brother. Families of all the shooters are listed on the 1840 census. Prior to the Civil War, they were citizens of a thriving community--just friends and neighbors who helped raise a new barn or tend a sick cow or bury a dead child--or witness an old man's will, whose children grew up to marry each other, and after the Civil War—to kill each other.

1850 Hancock County Census

Hickman Dwelling #296

40

2186 inhabitants in 297 families living in 297 in the County of Hancock State of Georgia enumerated by me, on the 7th day of Dec 1850. A. B. Wells Ass't Marshal

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION			7	8	9	10 11 12			13
			Age	Sex	Color, (White, Black, or other)				Value of Real Estate	Males within the year	Attended School within the year	
		Ernst Muller	14	M			500	GA				
		Michael	2	F				GA				
		Benjamin Johnson	50	M	Labourer			GA			1	297
291	291	Frederick Halt	28	M	Farmer			GA				297
		Susan	20	F				GA				
		Conelius	2	F				GA				
292	292	John Edans	30	M	Farmer		65	GA				
		Mariam	31	F				GA				
		Barter	10	M				GA				
		Elvira	9	F				GA				
		Almira	7	F				GA				
		John	5	M				GA				
		Rebecca	5	F				GA				
		John	1	M				GA				
295	295	David Rogers	25	M	Farmer			GA				
		Mary	20	F				GA				
		Eliza	2	F				GA				
294	294	Mary Edwards	45	F			1000	GA				
		George	20	M	Farmer			GA				
		Brook	18	M	Labourer			GA				297
		Sarah	14	F				GA				
		Henry	15	M				GA				
		Mauder	10	M				GA				
295	295	John Edans	27	M	Farmer		1000	GA				
		Frances	46	F				GA				
		John	15	M				GA				291
		Nina	11	F				GA				
		Abraham	9	M				GA				
		James	7	M				GA				
		William	5	M				GA				
		Robert	3	M				GA				
		Sarah	2	F				GA				
296	296	David H. Hancock		M	Farmer		600	GA				297
		Mary	45	F				GA				
		Martha	10	F				GA				
		James	14	M				GA				
		George	9	M				GA				
		Sam	6	M				GA				
		Ann	2	F				GA				
		John Winger	22	M	Labourer			GA				
297	297	James Adams	26	M	Farmer			GA				
		Anna	22	F				GA				

m 24
18

1860 Hancock County Census

Hickman Dwelling #842

Page No. 123

in the County of Hancock State of Georgia

SCHEDULE 1—Free Inhabitants in the Civil District enumerated by me, on the 25th day of July 1860. Asst. Marshal

Post Office Wes. Gap, Hancock Co.

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11			14
			Age	Sex	Color		Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate		Males, white the year	Females, white the year	Persons of color the year	
876	839	John Riley	45	all		farming	2000	200	GA				
		Melissa	40	f		household			GA				
		Harvey	30	m		farming							
		Clarissa	31	f		house work							
		Harvey	19	f		"							
		Allice	17	f		farm labor							
		Mary	15	f		house work							
		Margaret	13	f		"							
		William	11	m		"							
		William	9	m		"							
		Isaac	8	f		"							
877	840	Samuel Chew	66	all		farming	1000	500					
		Melinda	40	f		house work							
		William	31	m		farm labor	300	200					
		Lillian	16	f		house work							
		George	15	m		"							
		Robert	14	m		"							
		Antonia	5	f		"							
		Horace	3	m		"							
878	841	John Henson	51	m		farming		300					
		Livisa	41	f		household							
		David	4	m		"							
		James	2	m		"							
		George	12	m		"							
879	842	David Hickman	51	m		farming	1500	1000					
		Harvey	47	f		household							
		James Pickens	44	m		farming							
		George	40	f		household							
		George	17	m		farm labor							
		David	15	m		"							
		James	11	f		"							
		George Heman	17	m		farm labor							
880	843	John Adams	67	m		farming	2000	3000	GA				
		Ann	66	f		household							
		Abraham	42	m		farming							
		James	18	m		"							
		William	16	m		"							
		Robert	15	m		"							
		Henry	11	f		"							
881		Unrecorded											

No. white males, 24 No. colored males, _____ No. foreign born, _____ No. blind, _____
 No. white females, 24 No. colored females, _____ No. deaf and dumb, _____ No. insane, _____
 No. paupers, _____

Sadly, on the 1840, 1850, and 1860 census rolls are surnames that will be written down on opposing rosters in the Civil War, 1861-1865. During the forty years afterwards, these names will be listed on the rosters of feuds. By the end of the century, newspapers reported that Ann's children and the children of the men of this once happy community were still fighting and killing each other.

Right, top: Then as now, news reporters did not always place a high priority on getting their information correct. Hiram Johnson was killed in the fall of 1889, not "three yrs ago." What the report does not say is that the Flannarys, too, were teenagers at the time of Hiram Johnson's death. Below, left: The boy's death was part of a feud. Below, right: Not mentioned -- the Necessary incident was an illegal raid, without warrants, like those commonly carried out by feuding vigilantes of that era and by paramilitary units during the Civil War. This might explain why no Flannary was ever caught, tried, or hanged for the death of Joel Necessary.

It is reported that William and Patton Flannary, who, it is charged, killed Hiram Johnson in this county three years ago, and whose friends killed Joel F. Necessary and wounded two of his companions, who had the Flannarys under arrest in Hancock county, Tenn., last spring, have been arrested in Texas, and will be brought here as soon as the reward for them is secured. The murder of Johnson, a mere boy, was one of the most atrocious crimes ever committed, and seems to have been entirely without provocation. Necessary's friends have made up the \$200 reward and the papers guaranteeing it have been forwarded to Texas.

TOP: Flannary Brothers Arrested, *Richmond Dispatch*, April 08, 1900

The Evening Bulletin, Maysville, KY, Mar 19, 1890

BOTTOM: *Marion Ohio News*, January 19, 1899

Violent Deaths in Tennessee.
KNOXVILLE, Tenn., March 10.—In a triangular Scott county, Virginia, fight William and Patton Flannery shot to death Hiram Johnson, an old enemy.
 Harry Wilson, a Louisville and Nashville railroad employe, was drowned in Powell's river, near Big Stone Gap, while trying to cross on a raft. The people of that section are getting superstitious, as a man was found floating in the water there recently with his throat cut.

Deadly Battle With a Murderer.
 Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 13.—Joel and Charles Necessary, William Freeman and Samuel Duncan, of Scott county, Va., were the victims of a shooting affray Tuesday night in the mountains of that county. The Necessary brothers died yesterday, William Freeman is fatally shot and Duncan is seriously injured. The four victims were trying to arrest an alleged murderer named William Flannery. The latter's friends came to his assistance and he escaped. Flannery is said to have killed one of the Hatfield gang.

Before the newspaper stories, and in addition to the federal census every ten years, family names of future enemies appear side by side, like the friends and neighbors that they were, in other documents of the time. Everything seemed fine, up to the year, 1861.

Nancy Ann's widowed mother applied for her Revolutionary War widow's pension in 1858. Several men abiding in these polled neighborhoods—both as officials and as witnesses—put their name to her application. Some of them and/or their kinfolk fell into the post war chaos. Future conflict between them leaves little doubt that Hawkins and Hancock Counties were places where friend fought against friend, neighbor against neighbor, and kin against kin.

State of Tennessee},
 County of Hawkins} ss

On the 2nd day of June AD1858 personally appeared before me the undersigned a justice of the peace in and for said county, John M. Charles – aged about 47 years who am well known to me to be a man of truth and veracity and who is a credible witness and who being by me duly sworn, depose, and say that he is well acquainted with Mrs. Nancy Vaughan the foregoing applicant for a pension, that he has known her for about 30 years past, that he was acquainted with John Vaughan her late husband having known him for about 20 years previous to his death that they, the

said John and Nancy, Lived together as husband and wife . . . and that I Believe she is the identical person she represents herself to be and that I am in no way related to the applicant and that I have no interest in the prosecution of her claim or otherwise whatever.

John M. Charles

JOHN TEMPLETON

James Harrison

Sworn to, Subscribed, and witnessed before me this 2 day of June AD 1858,

Wm Hutchisson JP, For Hawkins County, State of Tennessee, Hawkins County} ss I, JAMES H. VANCE, clerk of the county court of said county, do certify that William Hutchisson Esq. before whom the foregoing declarations and affidavits were made is now and was at the date thereof was acting Justice of the Peace in and for said County legally commissioned and qualified and that his several Signatures foregoing are genuine.

Given under my hand and Official Seal at office in Rogersville the sixth day of June 1858,

J.H. VANCE, CLERK

Nancy Callicott Vaughan Pension Application with Templeton and Vance Signatures—see p14.

Templeton, Vance, Wright—in the Tennessee hills where these men were born, before the end of the century--became names that were dreaded, dreaded and feared across Virginia, up into West Virginia and over to Kentucky. The Templetons were nephews of a Jim Wright, and as kids they grew up in a neighborhood of Vaughans and Hickmans and Flannarys. Nancy Ann's grandsons were lifelong acquaintances of Wright and Templeton playmates, and there were marriages later on of soul mates. On an occasional census their names appear on each other's family lists. They probably attended classes together in a one room schoolhouse. Early on--hunting in the same fields, keeping the secret of a hideout spot in the woods, sharing the day's events over a dipper of cold water from the same well—they shared enriched childhood experiences.

No written record explains why the Flannary boys joined the Templetons in their uncle's fight, but join them, they did. Loyalty to friends or country, or love of their own father and knowing that Wright's brave father was executed by vigilantes during the Civil War could have been all it took.

The Flannarys were still only boys when they banded together with Wright and his Templeton nephews; the boys then proceeded in a man-sized fight that went on long after the struggle had ended for the Civil War soldier. The big war between the big adults who fought in the 1860's had triggered a firestorm, and their hapless children had no idea how to put it out.



Water Well, w/Barn—John Vaughan Farm, 1985 Photo, Courtesy AJ and Opal Frances Vaughan

The wooded hills of Nancy Vaughan's childhood and also of her descendants and their friends. Vaughan Farm, behind house, Mabel Harp Photo, 1997.



Trouble for Nancy Vaughan Hickman began brewing shortly after the Civil War when daughter Ann Hickman married Robert Flannary. By 1870 Ann and her young husband had moved in with her parents. Robert was of war age, but never served, though several Flannarys of Virginia and Kentucky fought for the North. Little Patton, a toddler, was with them—playing at his grandmother’s knee, and as their family grew they stayed on in the home of Ann’s parents.

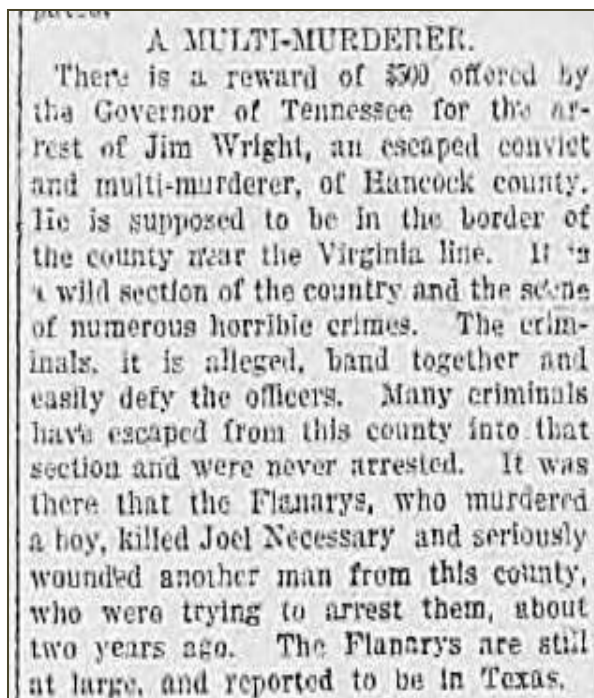
At least four sons of Ann and Robert, including little Patton, were branded as outlaws as soon as they grew big enough to ride a horse and shoot a gun. Flannary boys prowled along the joint Scott, Virginia and Hancock, Tennessee border, members of a gang that terrorized their enemies all the way to Kentucky. The outlaws were the Wright Gang, and the grievances of its constituents grew from seeds of hatred that had been planted in Hawkins and Hancock Counties during the Civil War, especially with the execution of Jim Wright’s Unionist father. When William Flannary grew up he chose the Wright side of the issue, and, never brought to trial for any of the charges against him, evidently had his own protective following in that “wild section of the country.”

Still, news of reported misdeeds and adventures carried out by him and his brothers spread like weeds blown about by an angry wind. An unscrupulous press that was not above sensationalizing a report for a buck greedily sowed and reaped a blustery harvest. If only Nancy had learned to write and had left an explanation of the stance taken by her grandsons. . . . Instead, assuming that she lived through it—she would have been in her eighties--her destiny was to read what others had to say about them. Without any words from her, it’s difficult for her descendants to know what she did or thought about her errant kin—or even if she found them, errant. Reporters on newspapers from all the surrounding states busily wrote about the Flannary brothers without taking the time to get their facts straight. There were plenty of unexplained circumstances and inaccurate reports, and stacks of newspapers of the day provide latter day researchers only circumstantial clues into the behavior of the Flannary boys and certainly nothing on what kind of woman their old grandma turned out to be.

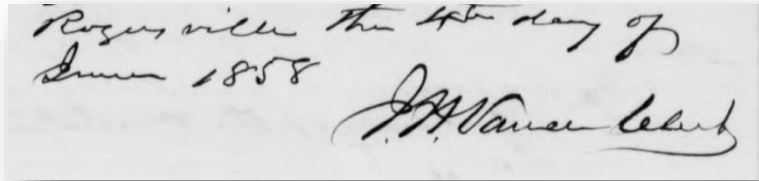
(Read more Flannary news at: www.childresscousins.org)

Names and places in the news . . .

The most attention-grabbing reports linked William Flannary to the Hatfield–McCoy feud. The Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoy’s of Kentucky represented the personification of family feuding after the war and on up to the turn of the century. The Hatfields, fighting for the Confederacy, took umbrage against Asa Harmon McCoy, who fought for the Union. The feud started with the 1865 death of this United States Army soldier on his return to his Kentucky home. Asa Harmon McCoy was murdered by a group of Confederate Homeguards called the Logan Wildcats, a local paramilitary outfit that counted Hatfields among its members. It was said that Hatfield’s uncle, Jim Vance, a member of the Wildcats, committed the murder.



Top of Newman’s Ridge, Hancock County, Submitted by Sherie Corbett
 The unique landscape of knobs and ridges was described as “a wild section of the country and was the scene of numerous horrible crimes.”

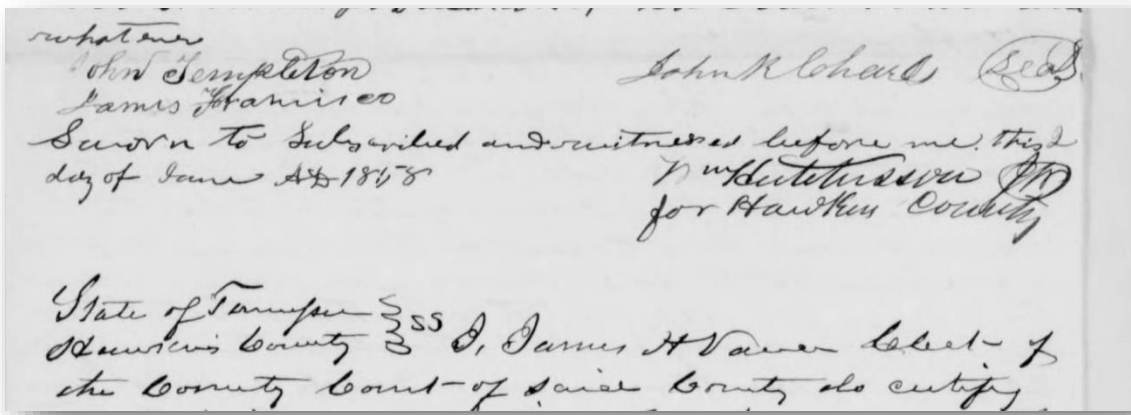


Rogersville the 4th day of
June 1858
J. H. Vance Clerk

Going back to 1858, Vance was the name of a county official in Hawkins County—James H. Vance, Clerk, who signed the pension application of Nancy’s mother. The same paper bears the signature of a John Templeton. (Left, and

Below, Center.)

The John Templeton in Nancy Callicott Vaughan’s papers appears to be Dr. John Templeton, a Union doctor during the war who checked the fitness of the boys before they joined the war. After the war, he was involved in helping with the papers of Union war widows. He was a first cousin of Jim Wright’s nephews, John and Aaron Templeton, and he was married to a Catharine Vaughan. In 1864 the father of fourteen year old Jim Wright was executed in Hawkins under the same circumstances as Asa McCoy had been executed in Kentucky—kneeling, with a bullet to the back of his head. Embittered and determined to even the score for the death of his father, young Wright grew up and led the gang that the Flannary boys and his Templeton nephews joined, in effect, continuing the tragedy of the Civil War. According to all the news reports followed in this research, the young men who took up Wright’s cause were not thieves, they were not robbers, they were not arsonists; nor were they kidnapping children or assaulting women—they were in a feud, seeking revenge. To them, their mission may have been that of a soldier.



John Templeton
James Francis Co
Sworn to Subscribed and witnessed before me this 2
day of June A.D. 1868
John Richard Seal
J. H. Vance Clerk
for Hawkins County
State of Tennessee 335
Hawkins County 3 J. James H. Vance Clerk of
the County Court of said County do certify

On the carousel of post war feuding, William Flannary had killed Hiram Johnson, “an old enemy” from “a feud” in 1890, one reporter wrote. Ten years later he was wanted for killing a member of the Hatfields. Hatfields’ Uncle Jim Vance also was murdered during this time.

History has shown that war is a place for atrocities to grow, and since atrocities are almost impossible to forgive, they grow on themselves. In truth, nothing can make up for the evil inherent in the execution of a good father of a young family. Since seeking justice through retaliation is like trying to find harmony in a racket of noise, Jim Wright and his followers were riding the winds of a cyclone from hell. In the beginning they were out for revenge that seemed justifiable in their eyes. In the end evidence shows that they were trying to keep from getting swept up by vigilante justice themselves.

Theirs was not a storm that simply blew over; the 1890 story which started the legend of young William and Patton in the first place made the news into the twenty-first century:

Article in **Daily News - Scott County News** July 21-23, 2000
The Strange Case of Patton Flannary
Daily News July 28-30, 2000 (excerpt, Part 2)

... During the long trial, the entire story emerged.

On a peaceful Sunday in 1890, a number of local youths had gathered near George Ramey's store in Robinette Valley, hoping to persuade the proprietor to open up for business and sell them some of the "cider" he kept in his back room. A delegation of the boys went to Ramey's home with the request, and at their urging the storekeeper got his keys and walked out in the road toward his place of business, ready to comply with their urging.

But before he reached the store, Will Flannary and his brother Patton, came down the narrow road on a horse, riding double on the steed without the benefit of a saddle. Young Hiram Johnson, the 14 year old brother-in-law of the storekeeper, suddenly stepped out into the roadway to meet the riders, and demanded repayment of a dollar of his money that he alleged that Will Flannary had. Flannary apparently denied having the money.

"You're our friend, Hiram, ain't you?" witnesses reported him as saying. "We ain't got a thing against you."

"You've got my money, and I want it right now!" the Johnson boy insisted, thunder in his voice.

Will Flannary got down off the horse at that point and the two disputing men grappled in the open roadway. As they struggled, the peaceful air was suddenly shattered with the sound of a pistol shot. Young Hiram Johnson clutched at his breast as if to stem the free flow of bright red blood that suddenly blossomed over his shirt, staggered a few steps, and fell down dead in the dirt and gravel road.

Patton Flannary, still mounted, fought to bring the skittish horse that had been frightened by the sudden loud noise, under control.

"Quick!" he shouted at his brother Will, "Get up here and let's get away from this!" And that's just what the Flannary brothers did.

In staying away for thirty-seven years—it's a good bet that they had a lot of help.

During the 1830's, the Vaughan family lost Mahala, a young mother. Her death must have seemed unbearable to her nearest sister, Nancy Ann. Her other sisters lived at least into their eighties, but deaths of young women, especially during childbirth, were common in the nineteenth century, and its frequency made it no less tragic. Mahala's death occurred about the same time that Nancy Ann was starting a family. Unlike her mother, Nancy Ann would never know the sorrow of burying a child of her own, but she would find out what it was like whenever children of her flesh and blood and upbringing became lost in the darkness of a real life drama that was bewildering, even sinister. The shadowy episode that played out on the stage of time around young William and Patton and their brothers could easily have seemed more terrible to her than death.

2. CIVIL WAR AND THE EMERGENCE OF THE FEUD

In 1858, with Civil War brewing, and with her siblings moving off—perhaps fleeing in search of more peaceful places--Nancy Ann lost her mother. By that time her brother George Washington was thought to be living near Nashville--Tennessee's state capital, but would soon be on his way to Mississippi; baby sister Martha Jane and her family lived in Knoxville--but would head out for Missouri during the war; Rebecca had taken off from her neighboring Scott, Virginia address to go to Missouri; and Beverley had been seen in Arkansas. Earlier, James L. came home for a visit or two, but he was back in Texas at the time of his mother's death--and the declaration of war. Benjamin, John, Jr., and Samuel N. were still on the Hancock County acreage their father had willed them, with Benjamin helping their mother with her futile pension applications. Mary Polly, married to John Gilliam, lived in Hawkins County, but her house stood close by, in Poor Valley, where she had tended to their widowed mother for the past fourteen years. Then, with rumors of a coming war flying all around Nancy Ann, and with her siblings moving off, her eighty-one year old mother died in September. On September 28, 1858, the old woman's attorney, William Strickland, wrote a final page to Nancy Callicott Vaughan's pension application ordeal:

Sneedville
Sept 28th 1858

Sir,

Having just received yours of the 17th of August 1858, in the case of Nancy Vaughan widow of John a Revolutionary Soldier, Claim to pension under act of July 29, 1845, and will now inform you that the Claimant Nancy Vaughan deceased a few days ago and we wish to know if we will not have a receipt

Sneedville
Sept 28, 1858

Sir, . . . In the case of Nancy Vaughan, widow of John, a Revolutionary Soldier, the claimant. . . . deceased a few days ago. . . .

Affidavit, Widow's application for Revolutionary War Pension, excerpt from transcription of original

Her death, added to the early passing of Mahala and the departure of Rebecca and Martha, left Mary Polly as the only female kin with whom Nancy could laugh or cry or welcome a reassuring hug or be comforted by a kind word—just when what she needed was a whole nunnery. Even her elderly Aunt Dicey pulled up roots and headed for Missouri.

Around the time the Confederates fired on Fort Sumter, Benjamin took his family to Texas, perhaps turning over his lands to the Hickmans. Trying to escape the coming troubles, Nancy's nomadic Vaughan siblings were following the American migration west where land was cheap, but since they were abandoning farms they already owned, theirs does not look like an economic move. By 1861 they would have heard of steadfast Missourians claiming neutrality and of their own Sam Houston, then Governor of Texas, fighting furiously against secession. The friction between patriot and rebel was heating up across the South. As for Nancy Ann, Mary Polly, John Jr., and Samuel—they held on to their Tennessee farms, stuck in the middle of the madness of war preparations, perhaps even lining up on opposing sides. By now, the Hickmans owned hundreds and hundreds of acres, much of it acquired after the departure of Benjamin—and, in the vicinity of the acreage he left behind. In 1860 Nancy's farmlands stretched along the troubled Virginian border where her Post Office address was War Gap, Hancock, Tennessee. She was living with her husband, David Hickman, and with all their children except the eldest, Martha Jane, when war broke out in 1861. Martha Jane lived nearby, on what could be dowry land, married to Garrett Allen.

The war did not go well for residents of Tennessee, in part, because politically many folks were opposed to secession. When her father died in 1842, mourners at the funeral were heard bemoaning the sad truth that he was one of the last of the Revolutionary soldiers. In East Tennessee—anywhere the old Sergeant and his fellow patriots had lived—the veterans left such a proud legacy they caused many citizens in their neighborhoods to vote against seceding from the United States.

June 14, 1861, Memphis Appeal:

...counties voted to remain in the Union. They are Anderson, Bradley, Campbell, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Knox, Marion, Monroe, Roane, Sevier, Sullivan, Union, Washington, all in East Tennessee.

And, *all of* East Tennessee.

It had to have been difficult to choose to divide a nation which the 1776 Rebels had united under the lofty principles of liberty and equality just to return to being individual colonies that would be ruled over by wannabe aristocrats from the planter class. Western Virginians felt so keenly about it, they seceded from Robert E. Lee's beloved Virginia and became the state of West Virginia.

While counties east of Hancock strongly opposed secession, Hancock itself was a county of angrily divided loyalties. Statewide, men who were patriots put together enough soldiers to send several regiments North. This meant that Confederates began shooting at fellow Tennesseans—even their neighbors and kin.

By 1863 the rebellion began falling apart, and many Rebels headed for home. Reports appeared in newspapers making shocking claims:

*Dec 3, 1863, **The New York Times:***

The mountains are full of Kentucky and Tennessee deserters trying to get home.

*Oct 20, 1864, **Chattanooga Daily Gazette:***

Our reserves of able-bodied men are exhausted, and two-thirds of those now enlisted in the army, are declared by President Davis as absent without leave now. . .

As what was left of the starving, half-naked Confederate army headed for home, returning soldiers of either side might be met with malice by citizens on either side. It was the return of one Kentuckian that started the infamous Hatfield and McCoy feud.

Militarily, by 1862 the United States flag was flying over Nashville, and there were Tennessee regiments of men and boys fighting for the United States Army. By the end of 1863 the once magnificent Confederate Army of Tennessee was in disarray. It had been crushed—not altogether by the Yankees, but in part by the politics and bureaucracy of Confederate leaders. In the view of United States Army General, Ulysses S. Grant, the political infighting between the inept Jefferson Davis administration and the skilled Confederate commanders of the rebel Army of Tennessee did as much to defeat the Rebels as did his Yankee troops.

If a man could secede from the powerful United States, one could certainly step out of a league of states that was as divided and impoverished as the Confederacy, and many Rebel soldiers did just that. By the thousands Rebels were reported as missing or captured on battlefield after battlefield. Some were actually released by their commanding officers. Late in the war, General J.C. Vaughn reportedly told his remaining troops they could go home “when they pleased.” His 39th Brigade had been split and half of his men were marched to Virginia to help Lee with Grant. On occasion, a soldier boy no longer felt rebellious toward the United States as he made his way across Tennessee and slipped back onto a Clinch Mountain farm.

Dissension in the upper ranks of the military combined with the animosity that surged in Hancock and Hawkins Counties. Union Loyalists and Confederate paramilitary groups, commonly called, Homeguards, clashed frequently. Moreover, Unionist and Confederate residents witnessed control of their towns, farms, and homes change hands many times:

-- November 6, 1863: The Battle of Rogersville. Confederates recaptured Rogersville along with supplies from the town's railroad storehouses. The USA 3rd Brigade, 4th Cavalry Division and the 2nd East Tennessee Mounted Infantry (pictured, next page) were camped out near the town and were surprised by the raid. Fighting spread into the town.

--Late fall, 1863. Confederate General James Longstreet, having learned of fellow Confederate Braxton Bragg's defeat at Chattanooga, headed toward Rogersville—the County seat of Hawkins County, to make his winter camp.



Vaughn

**Confederate General
J.C. Vaughn**

--August 21, 1864 United States Brigadier General Alvin C. Gilliam took Rogersville back. Main and Depot Streets exploded with Confederates pursued by Union soldiers.

-- December 26th, 1864 the 13th Tennessee Cavalry, USA, set up camp in Hancock County, near "the Rogers place."

--In McMinnville, October 28, 1863, Colonel H. C. Gilbert, 19th Michigan Infantry Regiment gave this description of what a war torn town looked like: "I found the Town in a most deplorable condition. The Rebels robbed the citizens of pretty much all they had; and after they left, the 1st East Tennessee Cavalry were sent here, and from what I learn, were a nuisance hardly inferior to the Rebels. They stabled their horses in the public buildings, and quartered in the houses. The Town was indescribably filthy."



COMPANY D, 2ND TENNESSEE CAVALRY REGIMENT, U.S.A

Every Confederate state, except South Carolina, sent regiments North to serve in the United States Army. Company D served in one of many from Tennessee. Also called 2nd East Tennessee Cavalry Regiment. Organized in East Tennessee July to November, 1862; original muster rolls destroyed at Nolensville, December 30, 1862; re-mustered at Murfreesboro, January 26, 1863; mustered out at Nashville, July 6, 1865.

Tennesseans in the Civil War, Vol 1. © 1964 Civil War Centennial Commission of Tennessee

Changes of the guard sometimes—if not always--resulted in repercussions against citizens on the side that had been ousted. During these trying times, Jim Wright's father was executed. As the soldiers returned home—with or without leave--the times could only be described as horrific. After the war there was plenty of malice and too little charity in their ranks.

For Nancy, these were times of personal sadness, as her brother Samuel died. He was only forty-nine. The two of them, living side by side as they had, had never been separated by more than a fence. In addition, two of his young sons, Hiram and Evan, also passed away. However, two of Samuel's oldest sons, fighting for the fading Confederacy, may have barbed their once friendly fence line.

These were times of personal deprivation for every member of the family. While shops in the United States bustled with activity and war production, the South had millions of slaves growing cotton. Its army, which never had enough of anything, might have done well in a pillow fight—if a way could be found to stitch up a pillow. Unbelievably, while the South produced cotton for two thirds of the world, there were no textile mills to process their cotton. Mothers and grandmas couldn't find simple necessities—fabrics, needles and thread, kitchen utensils, cookware—or staples like salt and flour for cooking. Their husbands went without new hats, belts, and shoes and could not get new tools or gear to harness their animals.

Scarcity of basic provisions created some documented discontent amongst womenfolk and drove many a barefoot soldier off the battlefield. After AWOL troops began trickling back to their homes in Hawkins and Hancock Counties, an eroding episode of civil strife broke out. The war was nearly over when what amounted to political differences killed Jim Wright's dad.

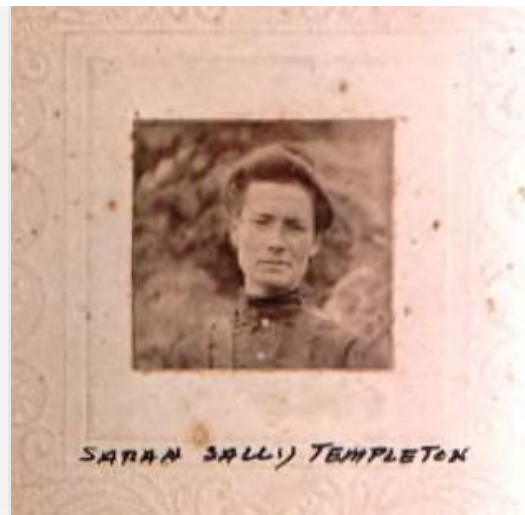
It's too bad that Nancy Ann never learned to write, because if a journal of what she saw in her turbulent part of Tennessee had been kept, her grandsons might have been seen in a more sympathetic light. Regardless, down the road, her desperados did have a lot of help; knowing their plight seems to have inspired friends and relatives to protect them from prosecution and jail. That is to say, none of her grandsons with the Wright Gang was ever caught, tried, and hanged. Furthermore, if they went to jail, their jailers couldn't, or didn't, keep them.

The 1864 execution-style murder of Jim Wright's Unionist father was a jarring incident that seems to have galvanized a mutinous population around him. The man was slain for his devotion to his mother country, and he was a civilian. When his young son grew up seeking revenge he had the benefit of the loyalty of a host of friends, including the Flannary boys and his young Templeton nephews, that lasted into the twentieth century. When arresting, prosecuting, convicting, and holding members of Jim Wright's gang turned out to be impossible, the Governor of Virginia finally posted a bounty on the man. Paradoxically, it was said that it took greed, and a traitor, to help put an end to Jim Wright.

In 1899 the Flannary boys escaped the "posse" that came after them—and also escaped prosecution for killing the men who came after them, but three years later, Jim Wright was finally stopped. Shortly after the Virginia governor placed a bounty on them, Wright, along with John Templeton, his nephew, was killed by a Virginia posse. At the end of a shootout, the bullet riddled bodies of young Templeton and Wright were brought back to their mothers, wives, and families in Hawkins County for burial. The long time struggle of the Wrights, Flannarys, Hickmans, and Vaughans was virtually over. Not till death did the Civil War end for the Wrights and Templetons....

A Woman's Face in the Crowd

*Sarah Sally Bray Templeton,
Wife of John Templeton*



BORDER BANDITS KILLED.

Jim Wright and John Templeton Shot to Death by Posse.

Bristol, Tenn., September 8.—The long search for Jim Wright and John Templeton, leaders of the Wright band of mountain outlaws that has terrorized the border counties of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee for years came to an end today, when both Wright and Templeton had been slain by a posse of nine men, headed by Deputy Sheriff William Darter.

The two outlaws together with a son of Jim Wright, were located and surrounded at Piney Grove, Hawkins county, Tennessee, at 11 o'clock last night. Jim Wright, the head of the gang, escaped, but a hot battle ensued between the posse on one side and Templeton and Wright's son on the other. A number of shots were exchanged, when Templeton fell, dying, a bullet having penetrated his brain. Young Wright then surrendered, having shot George Wolfe, a member of the posse, under the arm.

The posse kept on the alert, and at 8 o'clock this morning located Jim Wright. A fierce fight was waged. Wright shot and wounded Jack Robinson, one of the posse in the arm, then fell dying himself as the result of a volley of shots aimed at him. Wright's body was literally riddled.

The bodies of the two desperadoes were taken to Gate City, Va., today in a wagon, where hundreds of people had assembled to view the remains and to commend the posse for its effective work.

The families of the dead outlaws were notified of the affair that they might take charge of the bodies.

Jim Wright had a chapter of crimes to his credit. He had killed several men, it is claimed, and was serving a life sentence in the penitentiary, when he escaped a few years ago, and had since been living in defiance of the law.

Templeton had been Wright's associate in crime of late years.

MOTHER AND WIFE SEND FOR BODIES.

Templeton had Only Bullet Through Head — 15 Bullet Holes in Wright's Body.

Gate City, Va., Sept. 9.—At 11 o'clock today, three men from the neighborhood of Wright and Templeton's home, on the Hawkins and Hancock county line, arrived here with a farm wagon, having been sent by Templeton's mother and Wright's wife for the bodies of the dead outlaws.

After the requisite legal steps the bodies were delivered to them. They will be buried in Hawkins county. The bodies had been prepared for burial by the authorities here. They were viewed by three thousand people last night and yesterday evening.

Templeton was shot only through the head. Over fifteen bullet holes were counted in Wright's body.

With a load of buckshot and a 45-calibre ball through his bowels, he ran nearly a hundred yards under the rapid fire of a dozen men, swearing and shooting as he went. Before leaving the house in which he was concealed, he shot Geo. W. Wolfe with a Winchester, the ball striking Wolfe's pistol and shattering it, then entering his left side near the heart and ranging round the ribs to his neck, whence it was extracted.

Wright is known to have murdered four men in Tennessee and one in Scott county, Va.

He is said to have killed five men in Kentucky and two in Texas.

For the murder of Joe Owens in Hancock county he was given a life sentence in the penitentiary but escaped.

Templeton was implicated with him in the murder of Sheriff Lijere, in Hancock county, he was given a life sentence last spring.

Tazwell Republic, 8 Sept 1902

Epilogue: Long after the era of the Wright Gang, the Flannary boys, who had been living on the loose in their old Hancock neighborhood, escaped to Texas, then to Oklahoma; using aliases and hiding out where there were neighborhoods of Vaughans, they felt pursued the rest of their lives. The departure of the Flannarys and the deaths of Jim Wright and John Templeton seemingly brought an end to the mountain feuds, but within family lore a number of mysterious incidents in the lives of individuals who survived them are still talked about.

3. THE EFFECT OF CIVIL WAR ON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NANCY VAUGHAN HICKMAN

On the home front, monstrous atrocities, hatched out of the politics and intrigue of the war, devastated homes and farms up and down Clinch River and along the knobs and ridges of the Clinch Mountains. Every Southerner knew someone personally who was against secession, and when Tennessee men who were loyal to the Union put together enough soldiers to send several regiments North their loyalty infuriated all those who were trying to organize the Confederate States of America. Relationships in the Hawkins-Hancock County hills became ripped apart by a fight between men and boys who loved the United States and other men and boys who didn't. Although the part women play in historical events is usually left out, Southern women, who lost their men folk to the fight and were left with fields to tend, began fighting back as soon as the war started. When food they raised was requisitioned for hungry soldiers instead nourishing their hungry children, they tried to hide and hoard all the food they could.

Hardship and post war violence wreaked havoc on the Hickman, Vaughan, Gilliam, and Flannery families. By the time the war was over, feuding over grudges which had been triggered by the war hacked away at the tranquility of the tri-state corners of Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. Bad blood between family members and between former friends stained the landscape all the way to the West where Nancy's kin had fled. Some feuds continued long after 1865 and spread to wherever there were Vaughans from Tennessee.

As gunfire raked back and forth across hearth and home, barnyard and pasture, when military control of the area changed hands, some soldiers changed sides. Stories exist that tell of horses that did too. Grudges grew out of misunderstood loyalties, sometimes cropping up around horse thieves or a man's hogs or his garden. It didn't take much more than a cabbage to get hungry folks to fighting each other.

Before the war was over, men trying to go home—hoping to get out of harm's way, jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. Fitting into the controversy that hangs over military history and service records is family lore that tells of one kinsman's life and death struggle with local rebels in 1864 at his home near the tortured Virginia-Tennessee border--in Nancy Ann's neighborhood, involving Vaughan kin. Hiram England's records appear to be those of one of the soldiers whose switching sides angered the Rebels. Enlisted as a Private in September 1862 at the age of 24 in Company I, 64th Infantry Regiment Virginia, he had deserted from Company I, by March 1863.

Hiram England was born Feb 18, 1839 in Scott County, Virginia and his relatives populated the adjoining neighborhoods of the Virginia countryside and were also in Hancock and Hawkins, Tennessee. At the start of the War, he was just the right age for a soldier.

Hiram, a first cousin to Hiram E. Payne was at Payne's home August 1863 when Payne's horses were stolen. They were seen being driven through the woods up the Clinch River Knobbs southwards towards the Clinch River and the Virginia and Tennessee State line. The two Hiram's and Payne's teenage son, Anderson G. Payne, tried to overtake and recover their horses when Hiram E. Payne was killed and Anderson G. shot in the knee; Anderson was crippled for life. Hiram England ran for his life and obtained help of the neighbors and kinsmen. They retrieved the body of Hiram E. Payne and that of the wounded son. The horse thieves made their escape through the south woods and were never seen again. Both armies targeted horses and mules for their officers and cavalries, with war horses switching sides even more frequently than their riders

A little more than a year later there was a second shooting. About three miles or less west of where Hiram Payne was murdered, on the south side of Clinch River Knobbs in Hancock County, on the farm of James Kilgore, Hiram England faced danger once again. James Kilgore had purchased 120 acres and was clearing a new ground of some large brush. Rebel bushwhackers spotted Hiram and William Lyon in the field. Tom Edison and his guerillas attacked them. As William and Hiram tried to escape northward up the Knobbs, William was shot in the back and killed. Hiram managed to crawl under one of Kilgore's huge brush piles and hide. The rebels walked all over the brush, ramming muskets with bayonets on the end, barely missing Hiram England. He was terrified they would hear his heart thumping and find him.

The date that all this happened was October 20, 1864. The War was coming to an end, and many Rebel soldiers, shoeless and nearly naked, had already returned home.

Edison's Rebels stripped the body of William Lyon and left. When he felt it was safe, Hiram England finally dug himself out of the brush pile and went for help. He walked on across into Dry Valley to Isom Edens's home; Edens's son David was married to William Lyon's sister, Lucille Ellen Lyon. Knowing that bushwhackers were still on the prowl, the ladies of the house—including his sister--went to pick up William's body. As they went about gathering up the body of William Lyon, as fate would have it, one of them stepped on his musket which had slipped from his dying hands into the brush.

William Lyon was Eula Mae McNutt's great-grandfather, and his weapon was passed down through generations of her family until she became the owner of the old musket.

Story:

Family Information taken from records of Eula Mae McNutt: Letter of Dec. 17, 1986 to Mary England. With editing and additions.

Photo: A sign of the times: The image below appears to be a class photo, early 1900's. Hiram England's son, Hiram England, Jr., is out front with a flower in his lapel. The gun-toting teacher is Marion, also Hiram Sr.'s son.



Nancy's troubles began with the Civil War. Her family's feuding had its beginning with the execution of a Hawkins County, Tennessee farmer, Samuel Wright, who was loyal to the Union. A Confederate soldier by the name of George Thomas was one of sixteen soldiers indicted for Wright's murder. Wright's family and friends testified at Thomas's trial. Nancy's husband, David Hickman, was one of his friends:

After Elizabeth Wright described the abduction and execution of her children's father, a fiery teenage daughter's testimony echoed that of her mother's. The testimony of Mary Jane Wright may have held more sway with the jurors than that of any other, including that of her mother. She said, "George Thomas came to our house, arrested Father, and took him off. Thomas was the first one who captured him and was shoving him about with his gun. Father told him not to shove him so. He had a lame leg. Thomas called Father a Bushwhacker and said he had been to the Yanks."

She added how Thomas first handed her father over to the mob and then went to the field and stole her father's horse. The lame Samuel Wright would be forced down the road on foot. "They took Father on and killed him. Never saw Father after they took him till I saw him dead. He was shot in the head, face beat all to pieces."

Next she described how she, a mere school girl, later tried to get back her father's mare. Three weeks after her father was killed, she went from school determined to get the animal away from Thomas. "Thomas was riding our mare and I went to take it." But Thomas ". . .saw me and came out and jerked the bridle out of my hand. He threatened to kill me. I jawed him and he said he would put me where he had put my Damned old Bushwhacking Father." After he threatened to kill her, he rode off on the horse. After that the girl admitted she cursed the man "good" whenever she saw him. In later testimony by others, the horse reared up again and again to prove Thomas was a horse thief. For the rest of her life the fiery young girl continued to curse the men who took her father from her.

Following Mary Jane, her married sister took the stand and recalled a night of terror when Rebels came to search her house. The men dragged her out of bed, all the while cursing her father's name.

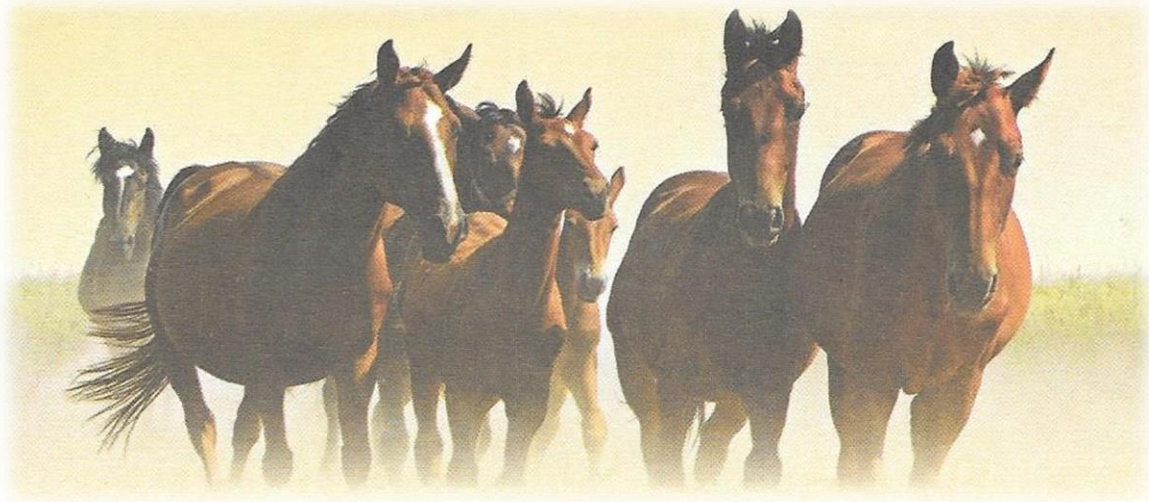
Also testifying for the state were neighbors along the way. Soldiers were seen in the Darter's clover field by one; another remembered he had pulled flax that morning. Thomas Barrett recalled how in the night . . . "a Scout of Rebels passed through my wheat." The men risked their own lives to beg the rabble for that of their neighbor as they witnessed the old man being prodded and shoved down the road past their homes. At one of those homes, the man pleading with the outlaws was Nancy Vaughan Hickman's husband, David Hickman. Moreover, George Thomas had been listed among their household members on the census of 1860. The murder of his neighbor by another neighbor haunted Hickman. In years to come he and his wife, Nancy Vaughan, offered their house as a sanctuary to men who would become known as the Wright Gang. The sole purpose of the gang was to kill Rebels and all those who were responsible for the death of Samuel Wright.

In 1864 Hickman lived "two miles over from Wright." The farm of his wife's deceased brother, Samuel N. Vaughan, lay between them. Until his death, only a survey line had separated the homes of the two Vaughan siblings, Samuel N. and Nancy, since the mid 1830's. Their children, being cousins, had surely enjoyed their kinship, before the war. The father of Samuel N.'s wife had thought enough of David Hickman to ask him to witness his will.

In his testimony at the Thomas trial, Hickman said, "On the morning they should have killed Wright I met Thomas and Scribner. After conversing a little about the mare, Thomas said, yes, they had the mare and they had Sam Wright too. Then I asked Thomas what they were going to do with him, he said they were going to put him where he would not steal any more horses or do any more Devilment. When I requested him not to have Wright hurt, he made no reply."

Emmanuel Rutledge, out on the road on an errand, met the men with Wright and spoke to his old neighbor. He testified that he told Thomas and one of the others . . . "not to hurt him and they said they would not hurt the old man." Coming back from his errand, on learning that Wright was dead, Rutledge called out to the killers, risking a bullet to the back of his own head, "You wicked wretches!"

Other witnesses testified seeing Thomas on the road riding Wright's mare. Andrew Derrick recalled Thomas knocking at his door about sunup, and coming back, "riding Wright's nag. I said to him, you have Wright's nag, and he replied yes, and we have Wright too." They left, heading northwest down the road. Northwest led to Virginia, away from both Rogersville and Bristol, the company's stated choices of destination.



War horses were valuable in the Civil War and were stolen back and forth between the two sides as the opportunity arose. Back in Wright's barnyard, the "wicked wretches" had searched Wright, and they took his pocket book, his knife, and half a dollar in green backs. He was unarmed, but he had his horse's bridle. George Thomas took the bridle for himself, and then he stole Wright's mare.

With the theft of the horse their prisoner was forced, limping, out on the road. That's where Lieutenant John Goodwin asked if he wanted to go to Bristol or Rogersville. Wright said Rogersville, which was south down Clinch Mountain. Bristol was to the east. On departing with Wright in hand, the company headed northwest.

A few days later, Wylie Wilson, a Yankee prisoner of war, was being held at a camp "on the other side of Clinch Mountain." He was being guarded by George Thomas on the 29th of June, 1864, and he testified that Thomas said that he and some men had gone to Mr. Wright's house and had taken him out and killed him. Thomas had bragged, "...that he had got a nag from Wright and called it, Betsy Wright."

This was a vulgar and cruel taunt aimed at his victim's widow, Elizabeth Wright, whose family and friends called her, Betsy.

At the conclusion of the trial the Hawkins County Court Clerk signed off on its veracity and certified the document August 12, 1869. Not mentioned in the indictment is a young teenage son, five years earlier, watching the mistreatment of his father from his front porch, seething in plans for revenge that would boil over into the 20th century and scald Southern Appalachia down to its very soul. It was the beginning of the epic quest of the Wright children who, forever after, tirelessly sought justice for their family on those who got away, and perhaps even on some of the men who, like Thomas, were punished. For the next three and a half decades, from East Tennessee to Missouri to Texas, few from Hancock and Hawkins County went untouched, for better or worse, particularly the Church and Vaughan families, by a watchful son and a furious daughter's mission to even the score for their wronged father.

*Taken from, "Once Upon a Vaughan Road," in--Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial ©, 2017
By Helen Vaughan Michael*

In 1870 the Hickmans had given their daughter Ann and her Flannary family a place to stay; thirty years later they were still there, and their grandsons stood at the windows of the house that had cradled them, waiting to ambush and kill the men who had come hoping to arrest one of them. The Wright Gang stood with them.

A MOTHER KILLED.

Two Young Fellows Did It with a Shotgun.

LADONIA, Tex., Aug. 23.—Mrs. D. P. Hickman was shot and killed last night near Dial, eight miles northeast of here. Two young men came to the house last night about 8 o'clock, seeming to be under the influence of liquor. Mrs. Hickman was undressing her little boy to put him to bed. Some one had given him whisky, and she said:

"I wish whoever gave my child whisky was in Guinea."

The young men replied:

"We gave him the whisky, by God," and used other insulting language. They then left, but soon after returned and called for Hickman to come. His wife went to the door and told them her husband was in bed. They used very insulting language to her and she ordered them to leave. Both young men persisted and assailed her virtue, when she said they must leave or she would drive them away with an ax. She started toward them with an ax and when close to them, one of the young fellows discharged a shotgun and killed her instantly. Both young men are at large. Much excitement prevails, as all the parties are well known and of good families.

Newsmakers of The Outlaw Era

Nancy Ann was still around in 1867 when her son, Daniel P. Hickman, married Hiram England's sister, Sarah Sallie. They blessed her with eight grandchildren. After the couple moved to Texas, if the old woman still lived, she would hear, or read in the news, that in 1890 her son's wife was dead, gunned down in her own front yard. (Left: *Dallas Morning News*) As the world turns, the Flannary boys were not Nancy's only misfortune; her son, Daniel P. was rumored to be a drunk who reportedly served time in prison. It isn't clear if a Daniel Hickman who served in a Confederate unit from the Hancock area was Daniel P.

The war left Nancy's family struggling for forty years in the midst of feuding clans, some of them living up to the reputation of the Hatfields and McCoys. Newspaper reporters hungrily fed at their angry trough, and citizens eagerly--or anxiously, awaited their stories which were, at one and the same time, embellished and incomplete. One newspaper (Right) reported that the violence along the Tennessee-Virginia line grew to the point where nervous citizens began securing their homes and hearth. As they stockpiled weapons and ammunition they bolstered their doors and windows. The front door to Samuel's home had a small, hinged lookout door added on.

TERRORIZED BY OUTLAWS.—An order for 164 Winchester rifles and 1,000 cartridges was received at Gate City, Va., Saturday night from citizens living in Scott county. The order was accompanied by the statement that the guns were to be used for the protection of the many families in that vicinity who have been threatened with violence by the unscrupulous "Jim" Wright band of outlaws. The band has committed many murders in the mountainous section embracing Scott, Lee, Dickenson, and the border Kentucky counties. The story sent out from Kentucky over a week ago that a sheriff's posse had killed Wright and two members of his gang is not believed by the citizens of Scott county, and the people of Scott and Lee counties are said to be in mortal terror of the outlaws. They have been warned that the band is on the warpath and has sworn to kill every man who assisted in the effort to bring them to justice. John Templeton, one of the leaders, is known to have been seriously wounded. He was shot two weeks ago in Lee county.

Lower Right: *Old door stored in barn, with drying tobacco.*
Vaughan farm photo, 1997, Mabel Harp.



family, there is a hint of what Nancy's politics were. One thing is sure—she is the daughter of Sgt. John Vaughan who fought against British tyranny at the age of fifteen, and she is the sister of Capt. James L. Vaughan who helped throw Santa Anna out of Texas, and, who, afterwards, was a neighbor of Sam Houston. **Even more meaningful**, Ahead of the war, her siblings abandoned their homes, fleeing with their war age sons to places they surely hoped would be safer—but Nancy stayed. If her grandsons were involved in feuds that began with official tyranny or vigilante terrorists--an old woman's courage, coupled with an ingrained sense of fair-play, may have led her to support them in their struggle. The Civil War history of Hancock and Hawkins Counties is clear that men in power abused that power, while across the South, free-thinking women, who just wanted to feed their families, defied the Confederacy to do so.

Nancy had four outlaw grandsons: Patton, Wilburn, William, and Jessie David. A granddaughter of her brother Samuel married one of the Flannery outlaws. Samuel's granddaughter, Laura Warner, married Wilburn, and, quite unexplainably, they lived undisturbed in Hancock until 1915. Then, using an

Pictured: Patton, David Jesse, and Wilburn Hayes—arrested in 1927 Okla. Headlines: January 19, 1899, MARION OHIO NEWS.

Texas vicinity as Fannin



BY BOLD BANDITS

Four Men Are Dropped in the Hills of Old Tennessee.

Were Attempting To Arrest a Desperado Who Had a Brother

Who Didn't Do a Thing but Pump Them Full of Holes.

Knoxville, Jan. 19.—News of a terrible affray in the mountains, in which four men, reputable citizens of Scott county, Va., were the victims, has been received here.

As a result the Necessary brothers died, William Freeman is fatally shot and may die and Duncan is seriously shot in the leg. They went to the home of the Flannery desperadoes in Scott county mountains and there attempted the arrest of William Flannery, who is wanted for a murder committed three years ago. William was captured, and as the party was about to leave, Pat Flannery fired upon the men. The Necessarys were shot in the breast, Freeman received a wound in the back and Duncan in the leg. William Flannery was rescued by Pat and both made their escape.

The injured men were discovered by passers by and medical attention was summoned from Rogersville, Tenn., 17 miles distant. The man for whose murder William Flannery is wanted was a member of the celebrated Hatfield gang. A large reward is offered for Flannery.

alias or two, the kissing cousins laid low in Hunt County, Texas for several years. Hunt lies in the same Northeast County where Sarah Sallie England Hickman was murdered—also it's an area well known for post war feuding. Patton and David Jesse lived there for a while and were reportedly arrested but, if so, were not held for long. Other members of the troubled Hawkins-Hancock citizenry moved to their Hunt County sanctuary and had to know Wilburn was a wanted man. Yet, he was never found in Texas. Even stranger, William stayed in Hancock, wanted for multiple murders, but was never arrested.

By 1899 the press made the Clinch Mountain area sound like a bygone era out of a lawless strip of Southwest Texas—an uninviting land of lawbreakers—which Nancy's brother had helped settle. Headlines big enough for the aging eyes of an old grandma to see dominated the front pages. Newspapers headlined their versions of the ill-fated expedition to her house early in January when Nancy Ann's grandsons, their father, and the Wright Gang, fought it out with the would-be captors. The visitors were looking for William Flannery who had shot and killed a Hatfield, according to some reports. If she still lived at age 92—and there is reason to believe she was actually there--she witnessed the real live events taking place in her front yard.

Next Page: *The Big Stone Gap Post*, January 26, 1899

FULL DETAILS

Of That Shooting in Hancock County, Tenn., Last Week.

Nearly 10 years ago—it was in the fall of 1889—Patten and Will Flanery, sons of "Bob" Flanery, who lives in Hancock county, Tenn., met a Johnson boy about 6 miles below Speers Ferry, on Clinch river, in Scott county, Va. By some means the Johnson boy showed the Flanery boys a dollar, they got hold of it and kept it.

Later in the day the Flanery boy met Johnson, and after a word or two was exchanged, relative to the dollar, Will Flanery deliberately and willfully shot the Johnson boy to death. Since that time very little has been heard or known of the Flanery boys, having successfully evaded the officers of the law both in Virginia and Tennessee.

During the year 1898 a stranger by the name of Gilliam came to "Bob" Flanery in Hancock county. While there he courted and married a widow McMillian. They went to Rogersville, Tenn., to get their license. Three months afterwards a Rogersville paper reported the marriage of Will Flanery to the Widow McMillian. (murder will out.)

The friends of the murdered boy in Virginia soon learned of this, and revived the reward of \$150.00 for the delivery of Will Flanery to the Virginia authorities. A posse, composed of Joel and Charles Necessary, James Claton and John Freeman, of Clinchport, Va., went to Tennessee for Will Flanery. They arrived at the Flanery home about an hour before day-light, and without any trouble arrested Will Flanery. Will and his father insisted that the arresting party should stay for breakfast; Flanery stating that he was

willing to go, and would ride his own horse, which, with his overcoat, was from home and he would have to send for them, to all of which the arresting party consented. Breakfast was prepared, and arrangements made to start with the prisoner. They had gotten about 30 yards from the house, put Will Flanery on a horse; he would slide off on the other side. To avoid this, Clayton and Freeman were tying him to the horse, when Will Flanery remarked to his father, who was standing some distance away, that he was damned slow. "Bob" stepped back, and on his porch and said: "The field is now open," and went in the house and closed the door after him. Simultaneous with this remark the arresting party was fired on by parties from Flanery's house. The first shot struck Joel Necessary in the right side, his horse became frightened and ran about two hundred yards when Necessary fell. He was taken to B. P. Snapps, and died two days later. Charles Necessary was fatally shot in the right side, the ball, 44 calibre, passing through his right lung. He was taken to Hiram Churches and is thought to be in a dying condition. Clayton and Freeman received very serious wounds. Clayton received two wounds in leg and shoulder. Freeman was shot in breast and at last account was spitting large quantities of blood.

Bob Flanery claims that he and his 3rd son did the shooting, this is discredited by many, and it is believed that while the arresting party waited for breakfast, the Flanery party gathered into the upstairs of Flanery's house, and was composed of Flanery's third son, James Wright, an escaped convict from the Tennessee State Prison, and three of the Fields boys, Brothers-in-law to Will Flanery. It is claimed that two men could not have done the shooting.

According to various news reports, in January of 1899, four men from Virginia appeared at the old Hickman house to take in William Flannary. The Virginians could have been bounty hunters or vigilantes, for if they were truly lawmen, all reports agree that they did not have a warrant with them. The Flannarys, abetted by members of the Wright Gang, shot all four of them from the upstairs windows of the house and William escaped—never to be caught again.

One week after the deadly battle took place, *The Big Stone Gap Post* reported some details, perhaps mixing in some detailed gossip. The news even dragged in the married name of Nancy's sister--William's Aunt Mary Polly Vaughan Gilliam. Actually, Mary Polly's daughter Susan was married to the boys' uncle, Logan Flannary. It seems that when William Flannary tried to sneak home to court the Widow McMillan, he thought it would be helpful to use a Gilliam alias.

When he later applied for a marriage license and used his own name, his enemies found him.

Tennessee, Marriages, 1851-1900

Name: Catherine McMillan

Spouse: William Flannery

Marriage Date: 12 Dec 1898

County: Hawkins

State: Tennessee

Perhaps it was a suspicious clerk or some such official in the Hawkins courthouse who led Williams' ill-fated, would-be captors to him in Hancock. Whoever sent out the alert, it was taken up by a group of men who arrived without any legal authority at "Bob Flannary's house." Such a party was otherwise known as a lynch mob, a rabble of which the Flannary boys had a deadly understanding. Instead of questioning the legality of the operation, or describing the region's tragic past with at random "arrests," the press dwelt on the sensational gunplay:

In the history of all mountain feuds, nothing is recorded that equals the shooting from Bob Flannery's house. The ambushing party was shooting at four men that had a prisoner and four horses, and neither the prisoner or horses were touched by a bullet fired from the house, while every man shot at was hit, some of them twice. This evinces two things: they will and can shoot, and that they shoot for game and get it.

The Big Stone Gap Post, January 26, 1899

The 1899 ambush from "Bob Flannary's house" took place in the same house in which Nancy Vaughan Hickman had given him, Ann, and baby Patton, a place to stay in 1870. In 1880 she was seventy-three, and the Flannarys were still in the same house with her and her husband David.

Representative 19th Century Architecture
Two-story Houses with Second Floor Windows
Clapboard, log, and board and batten were commonly used sidings.



H
headline

s of the shootout reached far beyond Hancock County's border, but not one of them ever proclaimed the capture, trial, and conviction of the Flannarys, the Fields boys, or Jim Wright.

After the death of Hiram Johnson in 1890, the men living in Nancy's home had been front page news. Unbelievably, in spite of extraordinary press coverage and rewards offered for their capture, William and Patton got away that time, too. Thirty-seven years later, though, Hiram's friends were still looking for the Flannary brothers:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1927, MIAMI NEWS-RECORD

Oklahoman to be Tried for Murder of Youth in 1890

Virginia Sheriff Arrives for His Brother-in-Law, Identified as Slayer

OKLAHOMA CITY Feb. 17- (AP)

—Patton Flannery, alias J. P. Baldwin, a resident of Pittsburg County for more than 30 years, is to be returned to Gate City, Va., on a charge of murder committed there 37 years ago, when, it is alleged, he killed Hiram Johnson, a 15-year-old youth whose death was one of a number that occurred in a feud battle. The accused man, who with two brothers was held in the jail here pending arrival of Sheriff C. G. Palmar of Gate City, was identified by R. A. Freeman, 74-year-old Virginian, who accompanied the officer here. Charged with participation in the clan feud, the accusation against Dave J. Flannery and W. Hayes Flannery will rest without any attempt to bring the two to justice, the Virginia officer stated. The fact that they are charged with killing Joel Necessary was waived on account of the affair occurring across the state line in Tennessee, and Necessary as a peace officer had attempted their arrest without possession of proper warrants at the time, in the year 1899. Peculiar circumstances of the 37-year-old crime made it obligatory upon Sheriff Palmer to come to Oklahoma for his own brother-in-law, as he had married one of the sisters of the Flannery brothers. A fourth brother, believed to be living near Savanna, is also being sought.

The fourth brother was William.

Patton was returned to Tennessee, tried, and acquitted to the cheers of a crowded courtroom and then released by his brother-in-law, the sheriff. When released, he went to the Flannary hideout in Hunt, Texas where Wilburn Hayes and David Jesse lived. Wilburn and David were still using aliases, but Patton started using his real name again. Maybe he shouldn't have. . . Two years later, back in Oklahoma, his body was found, mysteriously drowned in the shallow waters of Elm Creek, his little dog by his side.

The burial site of David and Nancy Vaughan Hickman is unknown. In a different time, Nancy might have been buried next door in the Vaughan Cemetery on Copper Ridge, situated on the old John Vaughan homestead that Samuel N. inherited. Samuel lies there with his wife, Malvina Church Vaughan. (Right) But, unless Mahala was laid to rest there, Copper Ridge is not the burial spot for any of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan's other children, according to the interment list. Even this situation could be a holdover from the madness of the Civil War. Samuel's oldest sons fought for the South; Carter, one of his younger sons, owned the burial ground after 1880. Perhaps Aunt Nancy is absent from the Vaughan graveyard because she and Carter were on different sides of the post war feuding until her dying day.

Samuel & Malvina Vaughan, Headstones, Copper Ridge. 1997. (Pictured, Mabel Harp, GX2 Granddaughter)



Vaughan Cemetery in stand of cedar trees—a fence line above the restored Vaughan home, 1997.

Mabel Harp Photo. Interment list. (Bottom of page)



VAUGHN CEMETERY LOCATED ON COPPER RIDGE NORTH SIDE OF CLINCH MOUNTAIN, HANCOCK CO. TENN. THE ORIGINAL FARM OF JOHN VAUGHN AND NANCY CALLICOTT, NOW OWNED BY MRS. PAT CHAPMAN MATTNER, RT. 1 BOX 108, EIDSON, TENN. 37731.

- ELIZABETH, wife of J. B. EIDSON, Dec. 26, 1825, Aug. 6, 1908.
- C. A. VAUGHAN, Jan. 1, 1849, Jan. 9, 1911 (stone emblazoned with Masonic emblem which is on main fireplace of his log cabin chimney cap).
- SARAH VAUGHAN, wife of C. A. VAUGHAN, Jan. 3, 1843, Aug. 7, 1906.
- SAMUEL VAUGHAN, Feb. 2, 1814, April 25, 1863
- MALVINA (CHURCH) VAUGHAN, July 22, Sept. 15, 1887 (w/of SAMUEL)
- OMAR A. VAUGHN son of J. G. & EFFIE VAUGHAN, Jan. 15, 1910, Dec. 4, 1912. Our darling.
- JANE WILCOX, 1814, May 7, 1882
- CALAD(?) V. COMBS, May 6, 1850, Aug. 29, 1888.
- FLORA B. wife of R. L. WILLIAMS, Dec. 1, 1886, Aug. 17, 1906
- MOLLIE daughter of J. & BARBARY GILLIAM, Mar. 15, 1878, May 15, 1897.
- WILLIAM NELSON VAUGHAN, Sept. 26, 1890, May 20, 1892, (s/o WILLIAM H. VAUGHAN AND MOLLIE ANDERSON, WILLIAM H. s/o JOHN AND CATHERINE LANE, and grand-son of SAMUEL AND MALVINA CHURCH VAUGHAN).
- NANNIE E. dau. of J. & P.E. GILLIAM, Aug. 27, 1896, Aug. 16, 1916
- OSSIE H. G. WILLIS, Oct. 28, 1916, Feb. 19, 1917
- MATILDA wife of JAMES FORD, July 8, 1848, April 12, 1911.
- JAMES A. FORD Sept. 6, 1847, Feb. 5, 1933

Several broken stones and many field rocks and many unmarked.
I feel sure that JOHN VAUGHN

Both Nancy and her sister Mary Polly Vaughan Gilliam, an eighty year old widow, still lived in 1880, and the aging women are listed on the federal census of that year. The year William Flannary shot

and killed Hiram Johnson, his grandmother would have been an attainable, within reason, eighty-two, but no 1890 census exists to say whether or not she made it to eighty-three.

She may have made it even further. . . .

The informant on the 1920 death certificate of Nancy's daughter, Martha Jane-- previously mentioned, was someone with very special memories. He was a grandson-in-law to Nancy, named Zachariah Fields, one of the shooters "from Bob Flannary's house" in 1899.

Zachariah thought he remembered that Nancy Jane was her name, and he may or may not have been correct. But he knew without a doubt that Nancy Hickman's maiden name was Vaughan. Strangely enough, he could not recall the less obscure maiden name of the deceased, his mother-in-law, Martha Jane Hickman Allen. Clearly, Martha Jane's father, who was Nancy's husband, was none other than the forgotten, David Hickman.

1920 Death Certificate: Martha Jane Hickman Allen, David and Nancy Vaughan Hickman's daughter

Recalling the less heard of maiden name of such a far, distant, relative is an eerie indication that

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK--THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. ACE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1 PLACE OF DEATH			STATE OF TENNESSEE		19
County <u>Hamilton</u>			STATE BOARD OF HEALTH		
Civil Dist. <u>3rd</u>			Bureau of Vital Statistics		
or Village <u>Russellville</u>			CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
or City _____ (No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)			Registration District No. <u>43203</u>	File No. <u>2</u>	
2 FULL NAME <u>Martha Jane Allen</u>			Primary Registration District No. _____	Registered No. _____	(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME, instead of street and number.)
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS			MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3 SEX <u>F</u>	4 COLOR OR RACE <u>W.</u>	5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) <u>widow</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH <u>2 6 1920</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)		
6 DATE OF BIRTH <u>12 5 1884</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____, 191____, to _____, 191____, that I last saw h____ alive on _____, 191____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH * was as follows: <u>no. Doctor in charge old age & indigestion</u>		
7 AGE <u>35 2 1</u> yrs. mos. ds. If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.?			Contributory (secondary) _____ (Duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.		
8 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work _____ (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____			(Signed) _____, M. D.		
9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country) <u>Tenn</u>			*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or, in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MANNER OF INJURY; and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL.		
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>Don't know</u>			18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (FOR HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, TRANSIENTS, OR RECENT RESIDENTS) At place of death _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. In the State _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. Where was disease contracted, if not at place of death? Former or usual residence _____		
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) _____			19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Russellville Tenn</u> DATE OF BURIAL <u>2 8 1920</u>		
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Nancy Jane Vaughn</u>			20 UNDERTAKER <u>S. J. Steward</u> ADDRESS <u>Russellville Tenn</u>		
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) <u>Tenn</u>					
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) <u>Z. C. Fields</u> (Address) <u>Russellville Tenn</u>					
15 Filed _____, 191____ <u>J. W. Hays</u> REGISTRAR					
Form V, S. No. 4-100M.					

Zac Fields personally knew his grandmother-in-law and that it had been closer to twenty years than to forty since her death. Theoretically, Nancy, born in 1807, could have lived into the twentieth century. Her last year of record was 1880 and found her residing in the same home she had lived in since her marriage to David Hickman, the same ill-fated two-story dwelling from which their descendants—and Zachariah Fields--ambushed the Virginians who arrived on the porch with no warrants. In 1899 she may have been a witness to it all, and--if she was a robust ninety-two year old, helped prepare the breakfast that baited the trapped men who came to try to take her grandson. Knowing well the poisoned atmosphere in which post war feuds thrived, driven by the wrath of seekers of vengeance instead of justice, she may not have been willing to turn her grandson over to the Virginians. In her Tennessee hills

plenty of men had been killed in left-over battles of the Civil War. Against men who had no legal authority to be there, as a true mountain woman, she may have shouldered a gun herself.

Zachariah Fields certainly found the elderly woman to be memorable. Two decades had passed since he took a stance at the window of her house and helped protect her grandson from what may have been an execution. What was it, all those years later that continued to enchant him, perhaps even haunt him, about an unforgettable lady named--Nancy Vaughan?

The End

Biographical Sketch of Nancy Vaughan: *A Legacy of Outlaws, Born of the Civil War*
© Helen Vaughan Michael, June 14, 2013

Timeline

Nancy Vaughan

Birth 1807 19 Jan

Hawkins County, Tennessee, USA; from mother's daybook, p.2. Nancy Vaughan was born January the 19 day 1807.

1834 Marriage to David Hickman, 9 Jan 1834, no data.

— Age: 27

Hawkins, Tennessee, USA

1834 Birth of daughter: Martha Jane Hickman

1836 Birth of son: James D Hickman

Residence 1840

— Age: 33

Hawkins, Tennessee, United States; with Martha Jane and James.

Date of father's will and Nancy's married name

1841 27 Dec

— Age: 34

Hawkins County, Tennessee, USA I, John Vaughan, do make this my last Will & Testament: Tenth. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Hickman \$1.00. This 27th day of December, 1841. John his x mark Vaughan

Birth of son: George Hickman 1842 –

Birth of son: Daniel P. Hickman 1844 – 1912

Birth of daughter: Anne Hickman 1848 – 1905

Residence 1850

— Age: 43

Subdivision 32, Hancock, Tennessee 1850 Census abt Nancy Hickman; 43 B abt 1807 VA; Hm in 1850: David Hickman 44;

Nancy Hickman 43; Martha 16; James 14; George 9; Danl 6; Ann 2; John Winnager 22. Prop=600 value.

Residence 1860

— Age: 53

Click, Hancock, Tennessee, United States David Hickman 51, Nancy Hickman 47, James Hickman 22 and wife Anny Hickman 20,

George Hickman 17, Daniel Hickman 15, Anny Hickman 15, George Thomas 17, visitor. Post Office: War Gap

Property 1860

— Age: 53

Hancock County, Tennessee, USA ; Value of Real estate: 1500. Value of personal estate: 1000. David Hickman 51 and Nancy

Vaughan Hickman 47

Civil War 1861-1865

Residence 1870

— Age: 63

District 3, Hancock, Tennessee, United States David Hickman 66/ Nancy Hickman 64. Anna Flannery 19 Robert Flannery 22

Patton Flannery 1 Sarah Bigg 14. Post Office: War Gap. Real est., 1300/personal est., 250. 3 sons w/420.

Residence 1880

— Age: 73

Hancock, Tennessee, David Hickman 76/ Nancy Hickman 74. Robert Flanery 36/ Ann Flanery 31, Patten B. Flanery 12 William H.

Flanery 10 David Jesse Flanery 8 Eliza Ann Flanery 6 Wilbourn H. Flanery 4; twins: Sallie L. Flanery/ Robert L. Flanery

— Age: 73

Hancock, Tennessee, 1880 census, last record for Nancy Vaughan Hickman. Theoretically she could have lived a much longer life.

Parents: John Vaughan 1762 – 1842/ Nancy Callicott 1777 – 1858

Siblings

James L. Vaughan 1795 – 1861; Beverley Vaughan 1797 – 1858; Mary Polly Vaughan 1800 – 1880; Rebekah Greaser Vaughan 1802

– 1883; Benjamin Vaughan 1804 – 1864; Mahala Vaughan 1809 – 1835; John Vaughan Jr 1811 – 1887; Samuel N. Vaughan 1814 –

1863; Martha Jane Vaughan 1815 – 1880; George Washington Vaughan 1820 – 1901.

Spouse & Children : David Hickman 1804 – 1880

Martha Jane Hickman 1834 – 1920; James D Hickman 1836 – ; George Hickman 1842 – ; Daniel P. Hickman 1844 – 1912; Anne

Hickman 1848 – 1905

Sources

Nancy Callicott Vaughan Daybook, Page 2

1830 Census

1840 Census

John Vaughan Will, Dec 1841

1850 Census

1858 Nancy Callicott Vaughan Pension Application: Excerpts

1860 Census

Records of Eula Mae McNutt: Letter of Dec. 17, 1986 to Mary England

George Washington Vaughan, Sr. and Descendants, Opal Frances Vaughan

1870 Census

1880 Census

Oral History

News Items: Dallas Morning News; THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1927, MIAMI NEWS-RECORD; NEWS—"Terrorized by Outlaws". The Big Stone Gap Post, January 26, 1899; Richmond Dispatch, April 08, 1900; Marion Ohio News, January 19, 1899; The Evening Bulletin, Maysville, KY, Mar 19, 1890; Article in Daily News - Scott County News July 21-23, 2000; Richmond Dispatch, February 2, 1902; Tazwell Republic, 8 Sept 1902;

www.childresscousins.org or <http://www.childresscousins.org> for a comprehensive collection of Flannery news coverage.

Tennessee, Marriages, 1851-1900. 1920 State of Tennessee Death Certificate for Martha Jane Hickman Allen

American Civil War Soldiers, abt Hiram England: Residence: Scott CO, VA; Enlistment Date: 1 Sep 1862; Enlistment Place: Lee CO, VA; Side Served: Confederacy; State Served: VA; Service Record: Enlisted as a Private on 1 Sep 1862 at the age of 24.; Enlisted in Company I, 64th Infantry Regiment VA on 1 Sep 1862.; Deserted from Company I, 64th Infantry Regiment VA on 17 Mar 1863. Sources: Height: 6'; Eye Color: black; Hair Color: dark; Complexion: dark. **Ancestry.com**

TENNESSEANS IN THE CIVIL WAR, Part I, published by the Civil War Centennial Commission, Nashville, Tennessee, 1964 - A Military History of Confederate and Union Units

Photographs: Mabel Harp and AJ and Opal Frances Vaughan, w/Varney Vaughan

NOTES

NOTES: Will Of Henry Church

Will Of Henry Church, Page 114, Dated: November 5, 1844 Proven: December Term, 1844

1890 Special Census of Union Veterans and Widows HANCOCK COUNTY, TENNESSEE National Archives and Record Administration, Record Group M123, Roll 95 Extraction by Hallie Price Garner, Dallas, Texas 1996

NOTES: <http://www.angelfire.com/tn/hawkinscocivilwar/about.html>

THE BLUE AND GRAY FROM HAWKINS COUNTY, TENNESSEE , 1861-1865

by Sheila Weems Johnston. *Divisions of the County - Where the Companies Were.*

Copyright © 1999/2000/2001 by Sheila Weems Johnston

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NOTES: Unlisted links between Nancy Vaughan Hickman and Union families.

NOTES: Daniel P. Hickman in Prison, Notes for Dona Mae Hickman:

We have a letter written by Mr. G.W. Donalson, an attorney in Ladonia, Fannin Co, Texas, dated March 3, 1894., for admission for Dona Hickman to the Buckner Orphanage in Dallas, Texas. The letter states that Dona was born in Bull's Gap, Hawkins Co, Tenn. on July 21, 1883. He gave the mother's name as Sarah "Sallie" Hickman and states that the mother died in June of 1891 in Ladonia, of the Flux, {which is a Dysentery}. He also states that the father, D.P. Hickman, was in prison for 15 years and gave the name of the prison. {the handwriting is too bad to make out the name}

Dona was admitted into the orphanage on March 29, 1894. The older children could apparently care for themselves but not care for a little girl, and the youngest boy, John, must have gone with one of the brothers.

NOTES:

mma220originally submitted this to RLA Family Tree on 18 May 2009. **Move to OK:**

The story is told within the family that Wilburn Hayes Flanary's siblings (Specifically Patton B.) had a still where they produced moonshine. When federal revenueurs came to destroy the still and arrest the brothers there was a shootout in which the revenueurs were killed. When lawmen came to make an arrest in the shooting incident they asked for Pat Flanary but he denied that was his identity and claimed to be Pat Baldwin. The name change to John P. Baldwin stuck and future generations were identified as Baldwins. They settled their families in Ti Valley, Oklahoma living next door to each other.

--mma220originally submitted this to RLA Family Tree on 10 Jan 2010. **Last Years**

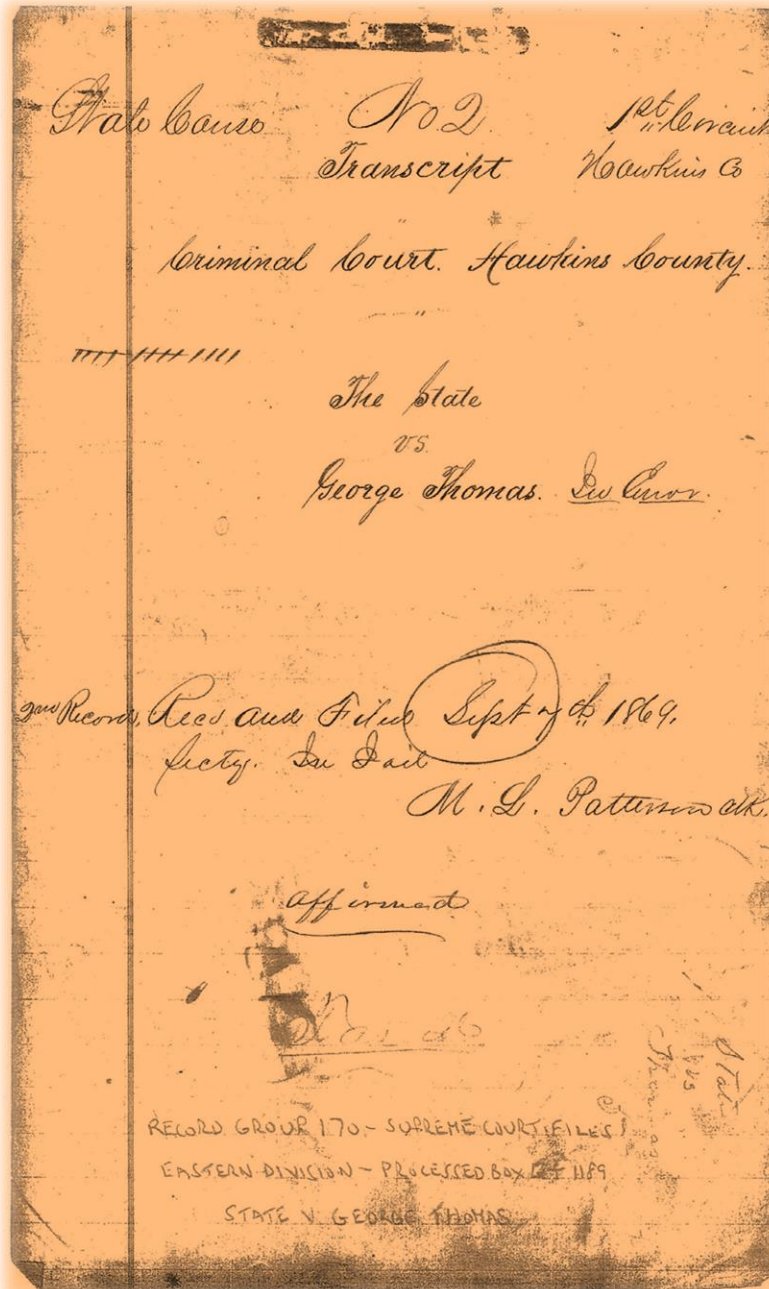
As he grew older, Wilburn lived for a period of time with several of his children. His last years (about 1964 till his death) were spent in the home of his daughter Dorothy Allen. I knew him as a gentle man with a sweet disposition. He was quite undemanding...as a matter of fact he would never ask for anything. For example, knowing that he would not ask we would ask him at dinner if he wanted various food items and he would always reply "Well, I'll take a little if you've got it". Wilburn enjoyed the grandchildren but would just shake his head when my husband (Robert) would play solitaire on the coffee table. Knowing that Robert intended to enter the ministry after college he would dryly comment "Never knew a preacher who would play cards". Wilburn was well loved and remained in good health until he fell entering the house after a backyard cookout. He never recovered from the fall.

Next—a story within a story,

Upon the Vaughan Road in the *Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial*

Upon the Vaughan Road in the
Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial

An Analyses,
By Helen Vaughan Michael,
Transcript Included



Upon the Vaughan Road in the *Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial* ©,
By Helen Vaughan Michael, 2017, Great-granddaughter of George Washington Vaughan

Once Upon the Vaughan Road in Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial

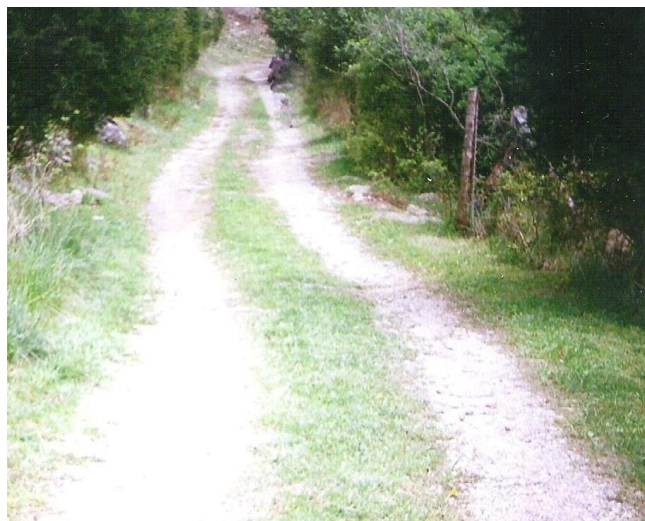
In 1864, a Hawkins County, Tennessee farmer named Samuel Wright was killed just off a local road with a gunshot to the back of the head. He was an outspoken supporter of Abraham Lincoln, and he was murdered by a Confederate mob for helping Union troops in the area. It was a gunshot that echoed over the farmland into the twentieth century.

When one of the mob, George Thomas, was indicted and went on trial, his court records left a map through the homes, shops, fields, and farms along the road. Details written down in the transcription of his trial make known even the kind of crops the farmers were growing for the upcoming harvest.

Most of the trial participants were other local farmers. They and their family members were lawmen, made up the jury, and testified. The accused were their neighbors. Many of their family names appeared for the rest of the century on the Hancock censuses taken along the road on which Wright died. Embedded in the cautious words of some of these men were hints of the flagless battles--lacking bugles and cavalry--the citizens of Hancock and Hawkins counties had to fight during the Civil War.

For Samuel N. and Malvina Church Vaughan the entire drama was a tragic family affair. Malvina had Wright grandparents. Samuel N. had a brother-in-law who was a state's witness. Two of his nephews were members of the guilty mob. When Samuel N. died in 1863 he left Malvina in the saddest of all Civil War quandaries, because two of the Vaughan sons also were among the indicted. The family was the epitome of the "brother against brother" theme that played throughout the Civil War.

George Washington Vaughan,
b.1846 Hancock Co, TN / d. 1920 Denton Co, TX



ABOVE: Road leading from the Samuel N. and Malvina Church Vaughan residence that turned onto the country road on which Samuel Wright was killed in 1864. Mabel Harp Photo, 1997

BELOW: Timbers from the Samuel N. and Malvina Church Vaughan residence on the country road on which Samuel Wright was killed in 1864. A.J. and Frances Vaughan photo, 1985



In the nineteenth century along the far northeastern ridges, knobs, and hills of Hancock County, Tennessee, right on Virginia's southern border, a road trailed south through the rocky terrain of the Clinch Mountains down into Hawkins County. Vaughan farms lined the road in both counties for over one hundred years. Behind miles of verdant walls of vine covered bois d'arc, juniper, and oak, the yeomen farmers who traveled the road built their homes, planted their crops, and tended their livestock. Vaughan neighbors did the same, causing a list of names on the census rolls to barely change, except for new additions, decade after decade, as the census takers took to the road, logging in Vaughan, Church, Callicott, Surginor, Sizemore, and Wright family members and neighbors. In one way or another many residents were kin.

Early on, folks along the picturesque trail established themselves as fine farmers, and visitors to the area could be heard comparing their part of Appalachia to the Swiss Alps:

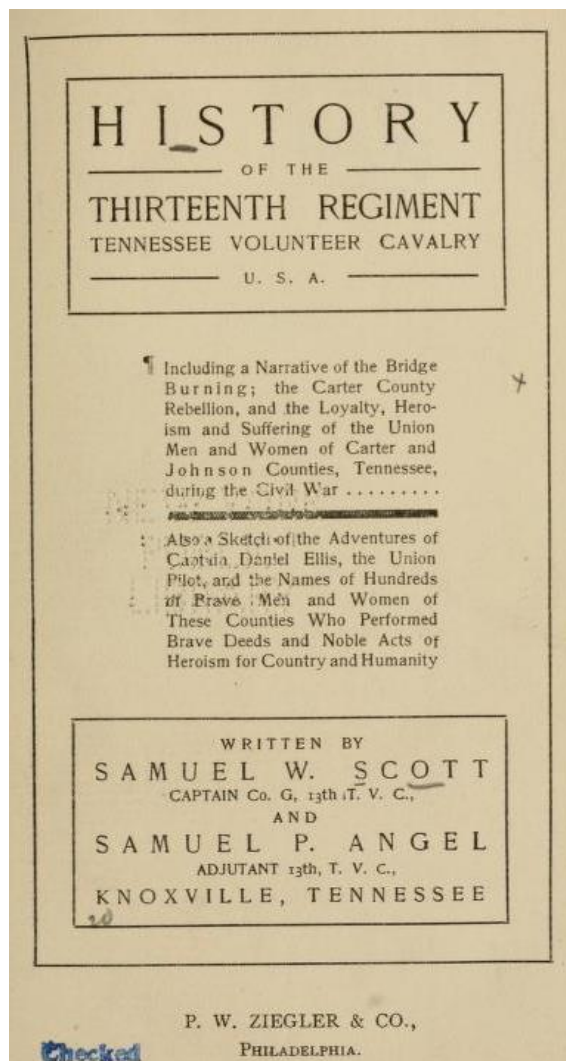
Because of its picturesque scenery, lofty mountains and beautiful streams East Tennessee has been called "the Switzerland of America." The resemblance to that marvelous and beautiful land does not end with its mountain scenery and productive soil, so far-famed, but is illustrated in the heroism of her sons, a prominent characteristic of the little Republic in the Alps.

History Of The Thirteenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry USA, 1897, by Samuel W. Scott, Captain, Co. G, 13th Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry and Samuel P. Angel, Adjutant 13th, Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry.

From their old soldier's book, Scott and Angel make it clear that other Civil War historians wrote about territory of which they knew very little,

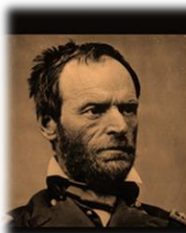
We know of the happy contented people in these counties before the Civil War, but it would require a Goldsmith or Robert Burns to describe their happiness, their simple lives, their cheerful songs, their hospitality, their love of country . . .

History Of The Thirteenth Regiment Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry USA



Before the Civil War, they say. . . .

Then war came. By 1864 United States Army General William Tecumseh Sherman was heard warning his side that, "War is all hell," as he led his troops on a fiery route across Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to victory. All the while, back in East Tennessee, hell was the very place the Vaughan's farm road was leading to.



I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, for vengeance, for desolation. War is hell.

State vs George Thomas (excerpt from trial transcript)

State of Tennessee / **Circuit Court**
Hawkins County / **July Special Term AD 1865**

The Grand Jurors for the State being duly Summoned, Sworn and charged ...upon their oath ...present that ...William Vaughan, George Vaughan, Aaron Ford, John Ford, George Thomas, (and others), ...Not having the fear of God in their hearts, but being moved and Seduced by the instigations of the Devil, on the 27th Day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty four, ...with guns then and there, ...Shot Samuel Wright in the head...

The family names of the jurors and the indicted had appeared together at least ever since the census of 1830 was taken. Those of lawmen, court officials, and witnesses, too. Ten, twenty, and thirty years later the federal rosters for the neighborhood would read like an address book of neighbors and extended family of Vaughan men and Church men. (next page)

These same Tennesseans would script the turbulent post-Civil War history of Hawkins and Hancock Counties until the turn of the century. The lives of the Church and Vaughan heirs who will inherit the future become forever intertwined, for better or for worse, with the lives of their neighbors of 1830, 1840, and 1850. For better or worse, Price, Webb, Shank, Johnson, Brown, Eden, and Fields are family names that mixed and mingled with those of the Church, Vaughan, Surginor, Wright, Callicott, Ford, and Hickman families for the next sixty years. It would become, *for worse*, for instance, when post war feuding led to lawmen being shot while they were at the David and Nancy Vaughan Hickman home, and the wounded and dying got carried off to the Hiram Church residence—that is, from the home of Samuel's sister to the home of Malvina's brother. Families of the shooters are listed on the 1840 census. Prior to the Civil War, they were citizens of a thriving community of "fine farms"-- just friends and neighbors who helped bring in a harvest or raise a new barn or tend a sick cow or bury a dead child or witness an old man's will, . . .whose children grew up to marry each other, and during and after the war, to kill each other.



Much of the post-war turbulence whirled around the killing of farmer Wright, a civilian, by Confederate soldiers in 1864.

The attached forty page transcript of the Hawkins County trial of George Thomas for the murder of Samuel Wright needs no further transcribing. The handwriting is excellent and large enough even for old fading eyesight. It contains a wealth of legal, social, political, geographical, family, and historical information. While Civil War historians have neglected to tell the overall account of East Tennessee, this legal transcript gives the Appalachian people of then and there a loud voice. Someone should have listened to them a long time ago, because after all the years of neglect, today, not even a whisper of an echo can be heard of the fight these folks put up for their country, the United States of America.

According to the transcript, fifteen members of the mob who were... *Seduced by the instigations of the Devil, on the 27th Day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight Hundred & Sixty four...* were indicted for killing Wright. Four had already been tried and sentenced to prison, others had fled the country, and only Thomas was at this time being tried.

It is generally known that Thomas was found guilty and sentenced to eleven years for his part in Wright's murder. Wright was killed because he—like the majority of East Tennesseans--backed the United States and its President, Abraham Lincoln. Named in the document are four others who were... "carried to prison" for the killing. Also included are the ten who were indicted but got away, "...not to be found in my county," testified various sheriffs. Two of the fugitives were the sons of Samuel and Malvina Church Vaughan.

Testimony began with Elizabeth Collins Wright describing the assault on her husband, and although he may not have been the triggerman, she specifically blamed George Thomas.

73 SCHEDULE

State of Kentucky, County of Warren, Precinct of ...

HEADS OF FAMILIES.

NAME	Number
William Ford	
John Hilde	2
Elyza Johns	
Dersey Ford	1
James Vaughan	2
John Vaughan	
William Cochran	1
John Ford	2
Samuel Hancock	1
John Adams	1
John Cook	1
John Adams	
Mary Church	1
Thomas Hancock	
Whitlock Mack	2
Charles Madlock	2
Christina Brindley	
William Ford	
James Johnson	
John Thomas	1
John Steele	
Eli Hancock	
Nelly Thomas	
Richard Madlock	
John Lewis	
George Hancock	2

Warren County

WARREN COUNTY - 1840

HEADS OF FAMILIES.

NAME	Number
Brought forward	572
Littleton Kayart	
Peter Lovin	
Daniel Wright	
Elyza White	1
Jacob Rice	2
Theoderick Webb	
Michael Shanks	2
Polly Shropshire	
Asa Johnson	
Willie B. Korman	2
George W. Knutson	
John S. Brown	1
Winstead Cobb	
Elizabeth Milam	1
<u>Benjamin Vaughan</u>	
James Collicot	
James C. Ford	
Ruth Gibbons	1
William Ford	
Brevity Ford	
<u>John Vaughan, jr</u>	2
David Beckman	1
<u>Samuel Vaughan</u>	2
John Collicot	
John Edens	2
William Church	
Pattience Surgeon	
Henry Church	1
Peter Fields	2
Josiah Bradley	1

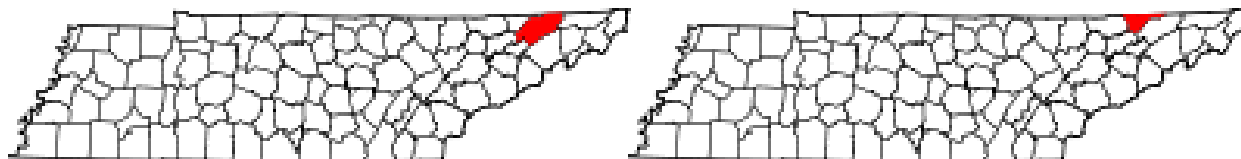
SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in

Warren County enumerated by n

The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.

Family number in the order of visitation.	1	2	3
	Mary Ann		
	Lura		
	Granville		
299	John Vaughan		
	Susan		
	Sarah Ann		
	George		
	James		
	Nancy		
	John		
	Mary		
300	Samuel Vaughan		
	Melvin		
	William		
	John		
	Ernan		
	Julian		
	George		
	Harriet		
301	Larkin Willis		
	Elizabeth		
	Melvin		
	Allis		
	Henry Gibbons		
	Audrie Catney		
302	Richard Fields		
	Nancy		
	William		
	Nancy		
	John		
	Margaret		
	Mary		
303	B. B. Ford		
	Mary		
	William		
	James		
	Mary Ann		
	Nancy		
	Rosannah		
	Cornelius		
	Sarah		
	John		

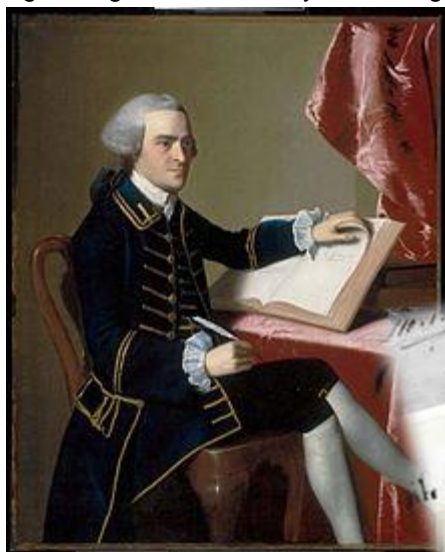
1830, 1840, And 1850 Censuses For Samuel Vaughan And Malvina Church Neighborhood.



From Hawkins County to Hancock County, East Tennessee

Elizabeth believed the Wright farm lay in Hawkins County and that Samuel had been killed there—as did the authorities, but according to distance, orientation, and addresses given in the testimony of witnesses, she and Samuel may have actually been dwelling in Hancock County. However, they had not moved there—the part of Hawkins where they seemed to have lived, perhaps on the border, got lopped off on the map, and, after years of argument, the new county was called Hancock—a survey change which may not have been of any particular use in 1864 to the authorities or residents. The fact is, during the 1840's, because of soaring population growth, Hawkins, along with Clairborn County, contributed acreage to Hancock and was one of several that underwent a split on the changing Tennessee map.

The name proposed for the new county was Hancock in honor of John Hancock, one of the Sons of Liberty who started the Revolutionary War. After political wrangling that lasted from 1844-1848, the real estate of the Vaughans, the Churches, the Hickmans, their neighbors and maybe the Wrights, was finally named for the 1776 Rebel, known for his signature on the Declaration of Independence--big enough for the old eyes of King George to



see, he said. Hancock remained a hero to the many war vets who had shared his cause, won their fight, and then settled down in East Tennessee.

The victorious, flag-waving, freedom-loving veterans moved into the Tennessee hills in huge numbers to establish their picturesque and productive family farms and to leave a powerful legacy. Evidently a few of their Tory adversaries sneaked in with them. Little could the patriotic descendants which they inspired suspect that in their mountainous land of the free and home of the brave still lurked those who would imprison, torture, hang, and execute them for believing the self-evident truth that Americans were born equal and free and were capable of governing themselves.

In the summer of 1864, on Wright's ill-fated day, Rebel soldiers trampled through their wheat and clover fields and passed by one farmer who was harvesting flax. They eventually marched off onto a Hancock or Hawkins County road to gather at the Wright farm aiming to capture Samuel for spying—*for carrying news to the Yanks*--and to take him to the nearest Rebel encampment—or, to kill him. On departing with Wright in hand it was said that they headed northwest, not south towards Hawkins, as the official record states. It was claimed in the testimony of various Hancock farmers whom they passed along the way that the mob was taking their prisoner toward Virginia, into the wilds of Clinch Mountain. A few days later, testimony shows, the company had made it to a Rebel encampment on the other side of the Clinch, where there was a look back at the bloody murder of Sam Wright.

The deadly gathering on Wright's farm in 1864 represented the bitter division within the East Tennessee populace over secession, the Confederate government, and the war.

The Wrights appear to be a family of gentle and caring people who were seemingly star-crossed. In 1838 the marriage of Samuel Wright and Elizabeth Collins—easily imagined as an Appalachian “Romeo and Juliette”—would result in the birth of six high-spirited children and eventually into one of the war’s saddest and most wide-reaching tragedies. Beginning a saga of Homeric proportions, at the Thomas trial the widow told how the happy life of the couple came to a cruel end at the hands of the less than happy Rebels.

Her story is heartbreaking. ...Her children watched as a violent gang of armed men took their unarmed, crippled, father from his home. ...As a wife she offered tender gestures of goodbye in the face of the terror that surrounded them. ...As her husband, Wright gallantly managed to wrap his imperiled family in comforting words even as he was taken away.

“Go home, now,” Wright cautioned her. He had been forced out on the road afoot, and Elizabeth had started out with him, but she turned back to get him his coat. As she brought it to him, he said, “Go on home. Do the best you can till I get back.”

“These were the last words he ever said to me,” Elizabeth told the jury. That same day, not far down the road from their home, the pitiless criminals pushed her husband to his knees and put a bullet through the back of his head.

The Vaughan boys and two of their Ford cousins were soldiers in the mob that killed him. But by 1865 they were among those “not to be found” by the local sheriffs in the area. Samuel N. Vaughan had been dead for two years when his sons had escaped to Kentucky after their indictment, leaving their widowed mother all alone. Malvina’s grandfather was Richard Wright, making the Vaughan brothers Wright descendants, and they were neighbors of the victim. George Washington Vaughan, his brother William, their cousins—Aaron and John Ford, grand nephews of widow Malvina’s mother-in-law, the late Nancy

Callicott Vaughan—all took part in Wright’s capture.

Elizabeth testified that they and their cousins and other indicted members of the crowd were Confederate soldiers. She said, “Thomas never pestered me any more after he killed my husband. My husband was a Union man and voted for Lincoln. This man is the same George Thomas who was there. Thomas and the Company were Rebels.”

By the time Abraham Lincoln was elected in November of 1860, the planter class was mad with fear that slaves were about to be free of their chains. Southern autocrats who had no regard for the rights of their neighbors—white or black—had begun oppressive acts such as blocking voter support for Lincoln. Except for Virginia, ballots in the South did not even list Lincoln’s name, even though many, many Southerners like Samuel Wright hoped to vote for him. In South Carolina, no one was allowed to vote at all. Voter suppression in the South represents another horrid situation historians chose not to put in their manuscripts, except to point out that Lincoln didn’t get any votes in the South. Never mind that anyone who tried to vote for him could be jailed, suffer loss of property, or be killed.

Abraham Lincoln, his last photograph





Faded Image of Mary Jane Wright

After Elizabeth Wright described the abduction and execution of her children's father, a fiery teenage daughter's testimony echoed that of her mother's. The testimony of Mary Jane Wright may have held more sway with the jurors than that of any other, including her mother. She said, "George Thomas came to our house, arrested Father, and took him off. Thomas was the first one who captured him and was shoving him about with his gun. Father told him not to shove him so. He had a lame leg. Thomas called Father a Bushwhacker and said he had been to the Yanks."

She added how Thomas first handed her father over to the mob and then went to the field and stole her father's horse. The lame Samuel Wright would be forced down the road on foot. "They took Father on and killed him. Never saw Father after they took him till I saw him dead. He was shot in the head, face beat all to pieces."

Next she described how she, a mere school girl, later tried to get back her father's mare. Three weeks after her father was killed, she went from school determined to get the animal away from Thomas. "Thomas was riding our mare and I went to take it." But Thomas ". . . saw me and came out and jerked the bridle out of my hand. He threatened to kill me. I jawed him and he said he would put me where he had put

my Damned old Bushwhacking Father." After he threatened to kill her, he rode off on the horse. After that the girl admitted she cursed the man "good" whenever she saw him. In later testimony by others, the horse reared up again and again to at least prove Thomas was a horse thief. For the rest of her life the fiery young girl continued to curse the men who took her father from her.

Following Mary Jane, her married sister took the stand and recalled a night of terror when Rebels came to search her house. The men dragged her out of bed, all the while cursing her father's name.

Also testifying for the state were neighbors along the way. Soldiers were seen in the Darter's clover field by one; another remembered he had pulled flax that morning. Thomas Barrett recalled how in the night . . . "a Scout of Rebels passed through my wheat." Several of the men risked their own lives to beg the rabble for that of their neighbor as they witnessed the old man being prodded and shoved down the road past their homes. At one of those homes, the man pleading with the outlaws was the Vaughan boys' uncle, David Hickman--a lifelong neighbor of their mother and father. He had witnessed the will of their Grandfather Henry Church in '44. Moreover, George Thomas had been listed among his household members on the census of 1860. The murder of his neighbor by another neighbor haunted Hickman. In years to come he and his wife, Nancy Vaughan, offered their house as a sanctuary to men who would become known as the Wright Gang. The sole purpose of the gang was to kill Rebels and all those who were responsible for the death of Samuel Wright.

In 1870 the Hickmans had given their daughter Ann and her Flannary family a place to stay; thirty years later they were still there, and their grandsons stood at the windows of the house that had cradled them, waiting to ambush and kill the men who had come hoping to arrest one of them. The Wright Gang stood with them.

See, next page: The Big Stone Gap Post, 1899

FULL DETAILS

Of That Shooting in Hancock County, Tenn., Last Week.

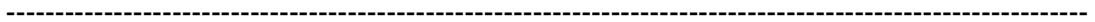
Nearly 10 years ago—it was in the fall of 1889—Patten and Will Flanery, sons of "Bob" Flanery, who lives in Hancock county, Tenn., met

Bob Flanery claims that he and his 3rd son did the shooting, this is discredited by many, and it is believed that while the arresting party waited for breakfast, the Flanery party gathered into the upstairs of Flanery's house, and was composed of Flanery's third son, James Wright, an escaped convict from the Tennessee State Prison, and three of the Fields boys, Brothers-in-law to Will Flanery. It is claimed that two men could not have done the shooting.

In the history of all mountain feuds, nothing is recorded that equals the shooting from Bob Flanery's house. The ambushing party was shooting at four men that had a prisoner and four horses, and neither the prisoner or horses were touched by a bullet fired from the house; while every man shot at was hit, some of them twice. This evinces two things, they will and can shoot; that they shoot for game and get it. It is to be regretted greatly that Will Flanery was not brought to justice, for he certainly is guilty of a very willful murder.

A dispatch from Rogersville, Tenn., states that Pat Flanery was arrested in that place Monday, and is now confined in the Rogersville jail.

The Big Stone Gap Post, 1899



In 1864 Hickman lived “two miles over from Wright.” The farm of his wife’s deceased brother, Samuel N. Vaughan, lay between them. Until his death, only a survey line had separated the homes of the two Vaughan siblings, Samuel N. and Nancy, since the mid 1830’s. Their children, being cousins, had surely enjoyed their kinship, before the war. At least Malvina Church Vaughan’s father, also a neighbor, had thought enough of David Hickman to ask him to witness his will.

In his testimony at the Thomas trial, Hickman said, “On the morning they should have killed Wright I met Thomas and Scribner. After conversing a little about the mare, Thomas said, yes, they had the mare and they had Sam Wright too. Then I asked Thomas what they were going to do with him, he said they were going to put him where he would not steal any more horses or do any more Devilment. When I requested him not to have Wright hurt, he made no reply.”

Emmanuel Rutledge, out on the road on an errand, met the men with Wright and spoke to his neighbor. Rutledges and Wrights had been neighbors a long, long time. He testified that he told Thomas and one of the others . . . “not to hurt him and they said they would not hurt the old man.” Coming back from his errand, on learning that Wright was dead, Rutledge called the killers of his neighbor, and surely his friend, “You wicked wretches.”

Other witnesses testified seeing Thomas on the road riding Wright’s mare. Andrew Derrick recalled Thomas knocking at his door about sunup, and coming back, “riding Wright’s nag. I said to him, you have Wright’s nag, and he replied yes, and we have Wright too.” They left, heading northwest down the road. Northwest led

away from both Rogersville and Bristol, the company’s stated choices of destination.



War horses were valuable in the Civil War and were stolen back and forth between the two sides as the opportunity arose. Back in Wright’s barnyard, the “wicked wretches” had searched Wright, and they took his pocket book, his knife, and half a dollar in green backs. He was unarmed, but he had his horse’s bridle. George Thomas took the bridle for himself, and then he stole Wright’s mare.

With the theft of the horse their prisoner was forced, limping, out on the road. That’s where Lieutenant John Goodwin asked if he wanted to go to Bristol or Rogersville. Wright said Rogersville, which was south down Clinch Mountain. Bristol was to the east. On departing with Wright in hand, the company headed northwest.

A few days later, Wylie Wilson, a Yankee prisoner of war, was being held at a camp “on the other side of Clinch Mountain.” His family was also from the neighborhood. He was being guarded by George Thomas on the 29th of June, 1864, and he testified that Thomas said that he and some men had gone to Mr. Wright’s house and had taken him out and killed him. Thomas had bragged, “. . .that he had got a nag from Wright and called it, Betsy Wright.”

This was a vulgar and cruel taunt aimed at his victim's widow, Elizabeth Wright, whose family and friends called her, Betsy.

According to the testimony of A.D. Johnson, Lieutenant John Goodwin came to Johnson's house "inquiring for Thomas the day before Wright was killed saying that he was going to arrest Thomas. Thomas had been at home two or three weeks." If Johnson means that George Thomas was AWOL, as thousands of Rebels were in 1864, and if the Lieutenant caught up with him, then Thomas most likely was forced to turn on Samuel Wright to keep from facing a firing squad himself. The desperate and dwindling Confederate Army had resorted to such tactics in its effort to keep the war going.

Johnson's statement was measured and strained. Beyond any political or legal ramification in what he said, in the end he admitted that Thomas had married into the Johnson family. What information there is in his testimony is interesting. It's too bad he couldn't tell all he knew. He said, in part,

"Thomas told me that Lieut Goodwin detailed Thomas, Bill Winegar, and George Williams to take the prisoner, and after going a mile or so Wright set down on a log and refused to go any further. Williams ordered him to go on, and Wright refused to do so, and that Winegar and Thomas left them on the log together."

What is more, Johnson pointed out that in helping the Union, Wright had done plenty. He said, "It was hard for anybody to tell what Sam Wright was during the war. He claimed to be a Rebel." When the Rebels found out he wasn't, they went after him with a vengeance. POW Wilson told just how much vengeance:

Thomas said that he and some men had gone to Mr.

Wright's house and had taken him out and killed him. ...As well as I recollect, Thomas said he shot Wright himself, that Wright was shot in the back of the head and the ball came out in front, and he said that was the way they ought to serve all bushwhackers. I think the conversation was had on the other side of Clinch Mountain. He was boasting. I was a prisoner and Thomas was guarding me.

Wylie Wilson was the last witness for the prosecution.

The defense claimed that Thomas was not at the place of the fallen log down in a hollow, just off the main road—and pointed instead to George Williams, a "man of desperate character" as the actual killer. Williams seemed to be known by nobody. The jury believed this claim, in part, and "...after considering the cause for some time returned into Court with a verdict of guilty of Murder in the Second Degree," for George Thomas. They fixed the term of imprisonment in the penitentiary at eleven years.

At the conclusion of this transcription the Hawkins County Court Clerk signed off on its veracity and certified the document August 12, 1869. Not mentioned in the indictment is a young teenage son, five years earlier, watching the mistreatment of his father from the front porch, seething in plans for revenge that would boil over into the 20th century and scald Southern Appalachia down to its very soul. It was the beginning of the epic quest of the Wright children who, forever after, tirelessly sought justice for their family on those who got away, and perhaps even on some of the men who, like Thomas, were punished. For the next three and a half decades, from East Tennessee to Missouri to Texas, few from Hancock and Hawkins County went untouched, *for better or worse*, particularly the Church and Vaughan families, by a watchful son and a furious daughter's

mission to even the score for their wronged father.

The children's quest for justice would make newspaper headlines, if not the history books. For decades after the abduction and murder of Samuel Wright there were published reports on the Wright Gang operating freely in "...A wild section of the country," which included the road on which the Vaughan boys lived and Wright died.



The above sketch is of the Wright Gang's John Templeton and Jim Wright and was made from W.L. Hartly's War Gap, Hancock County photos in 1902.

State of Tennessee vs George Thomas

State Cause No 2
Transcript Hawkins Co

Criminal Court. Hawkins County.

|||||

The State
vs.
George Thomas. De Cur.

your Records Recd and Filed Sept 7th 1869.
Jcty. In Jail

M. L. Patterson clk.

Affirmed

W. L. G.

RECORD GROUP 170 - SUPREME COURT FILES
EASTERN DIVISION - PROCESSED BOX 1189
STATE V. GEORGE THOMAS

1869
vs
1189

1
State of Tennessee. Be it Remembered that
Hawkins County. at a Special Term of the
Circuit Court begun and held
at the Court House in Rogersville, in the
County of Hawkins aforesaid. Within the first
Judicial Circuit in said State on Monday the
thirty first day of July, in the Year of our Lord
One thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty five
and of the Independence of the United States
of America the Eighty Ninth.

Present the
Honorable R. R. Butler, one of the Judges of
the Circuit Court, in the State of Tennessee and
assigned to hold said Courts in the first
Judicial Circuit in said State.

Elias Beal
Sheriff of Hawkins County returned into
open Court the State writ of Venue facias
to him directed, Executed on John Moore,
James Davis, John Begley, Stephen Bailey,
J. R. Dyer, John McLain, George Wells, Geo.
Bradshaw, Nelson Campbell, Samuel
Henderson, John Looney, William Allen,
Asbury Gillumaters, William A. Ains, Elijah
Wells, George Davis, John Caldwell, Andrew
Galbraith, Joseph Eichel, Abraham Beckner.

2.

S. McCullough, J. F. Long, Andrew Logan, John A. Walker, Wesley Tunnell, and Pamel Robinsons, all good and lawful Men of Said County of Hawkins, And thereupon from the Jurors summoned as aforesaid, the Court proceeded as the Statute in Such Cases made and provided directs, to elect and empannell a Grand Jury for Said County of Hawkins, at the present term of the Court, who are elected Nelson Campbell,

J. F. Long, John Moore, John Looney, Elijah Webb, John McLain, Wesley Tunnell, Mrs Allen, Samuel Henderson, J. R. Wager, John Coldwell, Andrew Galbraith, and John Begley, of whom the Court appoints Nelson Campbell foreman, who together with the rest of Said Grand Jurors, having been empannelled sworn and charged according to Law, to enquire for the body of the County of Hawkins Hetero to Consider of Presentments,

John Davis, Constable, Summoned, is sworn to attend and wait upon the Grand Jury at the present Term,

The Grand Jury, appeared in Open Court headed by their foreman with a Bill of Indictment against Morton Jones, John Goodman, Swamps Cidson

John Eidson, George Martin, John Ford, William
Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron Ford, Robert
Mitchell, Wells Jones, and Elijah Walters,
George Williams, George Thomas, William Wagoner,
for Murder. Endorsed by the foreman thereof a
true Bill, which Bill of Indictment was Ordered
to be entered of Record and is in the words
and figures following to wit;

State of Tennessee) Circuit Court
Hawkins County.) July Special Term A.D. 1865.

The Grand Jurors for the State being duly
Summoned, elected, empaneled, Sworn and
charged, to inquire for the body of the County
aforesaid, upon their Oath aforesaid, present
that Morton Jones, John Goodman, Swinny Eidson,
John Eidson, George Martin, John Ford, William
Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron Ford, Robert
Mitchell, Wells Jones, and Elijah Walters,
George Williams, George Thomas, William
Wagoner, late of said County, Labors, not
having the fear of God in their hearts, but being
moved & seduced by the instigations of the Devil,
on the 27th Day of June in the year of Our Lord
One thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty four,

in the County aforesaid, in and upon one Samuel
 Wright in the peace of God and the State then
 and then being, unlawfully, feloniously, and of
 their malice aforethought did make an assau-
 lt, and the said Morton Jones, John Goodman,
 Swimp Eideon, John Eideon, George Martin,
 John Ford, William Vaughn, George Vaughn,
 Aaron Ford, Robert Mitchell, Wells Jones,
 Elijah Walter, George Williams, George
 Thomas, and William Wyrniger, with gun
 then and then had and held loaded and
 charged with gunpowder and leaden balls,
 which said guns they the said Morton
 Jones, John Goodman, Swimp Eideon, John
 Eideon, George Martin, John Ford, William
 Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron Ford,
 Robert Mitchell, Wells Jones, Elijah Walter,
 George Williams, George Thomas, & William
 Wyrniger, in both their hands had and
 held to against and upon the said Samuel
 Wright, then and then unlawfully, felonious-
 ly, and of their malice aforethought did
 shoot and discharge, and the said Morton
 Jones, John Goodman, Swimp Eideon, John
 Eideon, George Martin, John Ford, William
 Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron Ford, Robert

5

Mitchell, Wells Jones, Elijah Walters, George Williams, George Thomas, and William Wymiger, with the leaden balls aforesaid, out of the guns aforesaid shot and sent forth them and thus by force of the gunpowder aforesaid, the said Samuel Wright in the head of him the said Samuel Wright then and there wilfully deliberately feloniously and of their malice aforesaid did strike penetrate and wound, giving to the said Samuel Wright one mortal wound of the depth of six inches and of the breadth of one inch, of which said mortal wound he the said Samuel Wright, on the day and year aforesaid died

And the jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do say, that the said Morton Jones, John Goodman, Swinup Eidson, John Eidson, George Martin, John Ford, William Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron Ford, Robert Mitchell, Wells Jones, Elijah Walters, George Williams, George Thomas, and William Wymiger, the said Samuel Wright, in manner and form did kill and murder wilfully, deliberately feloniously and of their malice aforesaid contrary to the form of the

6

statute in such cases made and provided, and
against the peace and dignity of the
State

James Britton
Attorney General

Endorsed, Indictment The State vs Morton
Jones, John Goodman, and others, Murder,
Elizabeth Wright, prosecuting, Summons for
the State Elizabeth Wright, Eli Richison,
Jane Richison, Elizabeth Payne, William
Payne, Frances Ann Hensley, James
Collins, Nancy J Collins, Louisa Rice,
David Johnson, William Rice, Sarah Barrett,
Pleasant Barrett, Thomas Barrett, Cosby
Ann Johnson, Mary Jane Wright, Wells
Jones, Wiley Wilburn,

James Britton, A.G.

Elizabeth Wright, sworn in open Court and
sent before the Grand Jury August 1st 1865
Wm. M. Piper Clerk

At true Bill N. Campbell, foreman of the
Grand Jury

Capias

7

State of Tennessee To the Sheriff of Hawkins
Hawkins County County ... Circuit

You are hereby commanded to take the
bodies of Morton Jones, John Goodman, Swinup
Edison, John Edison, George Martin, John
Ford, William Vaughn, George Vaughn,
Aaron Ford, Robert Mitchell, Weller Jones,
Elijah Walter, George Williams, George Thomas,
& William Wiggins, and have them before
the Judge of our Circuit Court, to be held
for the County of Hawkins, at the Court
House in Rogersville, on the first Monday
after the fourth Monday of September next,
to answer a charge of the State exhibited
against them by indictment for Murder,
and have them and their true writ, Witness
Wm. M. Piper Clerk of our said Court, at
office in Rogersville, July Special Term 1865

Wm. M. Piper Clerk
Endorsed. Copias State vs Morton Jones,
John Goodman & others, Issued August 14th
1865. Wm. M. Piper Clerk

Come to hand August 20th day 1865
Executed by arresting the bodies of Morton Jones

8


Wells Jones, William Wyniger, and carrying them
to prison on 1st day September 1865 Elijah
Walters, on 19th day Sep 1865 this Sep 25th day
1865 Joseph Wallace Sheriff

John Goodman, Srimp Eidson John Eidson,
George Martin, John Ford, William Vaughn,
George Vaughn, Aaron Ford, Robert
Mitchell, George Williams, George Thomas,
not found in my County this Sep 20th 1865
Joseph Wallace Sheriff



Wednesday October 4th 1865, September Term 1865
How. R. R. Butler, Judge Presiding

State

vs

Morton Jones, John Goodman  vs ^{Murder} In this
case it
is ordered by the Court that an Alias copias
issue

Alias Copias

State of Tennessee  To the Sheriff of Hawkins
Hawkins County  County..... Greeting
You are

9

herby commanded as you before have been
to take the bodies of John Goodman, Swimp
Eidson, John Eidson, George Martin, John Ford,
William Vaughn, George Vaughn, Aaron
Ford, Robert Mitchell, Elijah Walters,
George Williams, and George Thomas, and
have them before the Judge of our District
Court to be held for the County of Hawkins
at the Court House in Rogersville on the
first Monday after the fourth Monday of
January next to answer a charge of the
State exhibited against them by indictment
for murder, and have you then and there
this writ. Witness, W. M. Piper Clerk of our
said Court at office in Rogersville the
first Monday after the fourth Monday
of September 1865 W. M. Piper Clerk

Endorsed, Alias Capias State vs John
Goodman, Swimp Eidson, John Eidson & others
Issued Nov 10th 1865 W. M. Piper Clerk

Come in my hands on the 13 Nov 1865 A
search made not to be found in my County
this 20 Jan 1866

J. H. Pearson D. S. H. P.

Pluries Copias

State of Tennessee

To the Sheriff of Hawkins County ... Greeting

You are hereby commanded as you before have been to take the body of George Thomas, and have him before the Judge of our Circuit Court, at a court to be held for the County of Hawkins at the Court House, in Rogersville, on the first Monday after the fourth Monday of Sept next to answer a charge of the state exhibited against him by Indictment of or murder and have you then and there this writ Witness W^m M. Piper Clerk of our said Court, at Office in Rogersville the first Monday after the 4th Monday of May 1866

W^m M. Piper, Clerk

Endorsed Pluries Copias State vs George Thomas, Issued August 11th 1866

W^m M. Piper Clerk

Executed Aug 11th 1866 James Brooks Sheriff

Tuesday February 5th 1867 January term 1867
Hon. R. V. Butler Judge Presiding

9

State Murder
 vs

George Thomas This cause is continued
 on Affidavit of the Defendant
 until the next term of this Court

Monday September 30th 1867

State of Tennessee Be it remembered that at
 Hawkins County a special term of the
 Circuit Court begun and
 held at the Court House in Rogersville in
 the County of Hawkins aforesaid within the
 first Judicial Circuit in said State on
 Monday the thirtieth day of September in the
 year of our Lord one thousand Eight Hundred
 and sixty seven. And of the Independence of
 the United States of America the ninety
 second

Joseph M Logan appeared in
 Court and Presented a commission appointing
 and commissioning him as special Judge,
 which commission is in the words and figures
 following, to wit:

State of Tennessee

To all who

121

shall see the presents, meeting

W. G. Brownlow,

Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby
appoint and commission Joseph M. Logan,
of the County of Knox a special Judge to
hold the Court at Rogersville in the County of
Hawkins, the said Court commencing on
Monday the 30th Inst, Judge Butler having
notified me of his inability to hold said Court

In testimony whereof I William
G. Brownlow Governor as aforesaid
have hereunto set my hand and

G. S.

caused the great seal of the
State to be affixed at the Depar-
-tment in Nashville on this 28th
day of September 1867

By the governor
A. J. Fletcher

W. G. Brownlow

Secretary of State

And thereupon the said Joseph M. Logan,
took an oath to support the Constitution
of the United States, the State of Tennessee,
the oath of office, and the oath against
dueling.

13

Tuesday October 8th 1867 September Term 1867
Hon Joseph W. Logan, Special Judge
presiding

The State

Murder

vs

George Thomas The Attorney General
comes to prosecute on beh-
-alf of the State, and the defendant is brought
to the bar of the Court in custody of the
Sheriff and being charged on the bill of
Indictment Pleads not guilty, and for
his trial puts himself on the Country, and
the Attorney General doth the like. And
thereupon To try said issue comes a jury
to wit: Samuel Courtney, James, A. Jones,
James Davis, James Earley, William, B. Porter,
David Luster, Greene Presley, Thomas W Price
John Starnes, William Beal, Alexander Skelton
and Richard Morrisett, all good and lawful
men of the County of Hamilton, who being elected, tried
and sworn well and truly to try and the truth to
speak upon the issue joined, And progress having been
made in the cause the jury are respited from rendering
their verdict until to morrow.

James H Jones

14

Constable is sworn to take charge of the jury and keep them together in some convenient apartment, seperately and apart from other citizens and without permitting any other person to have any communication with them until their return into Court on to morrow morning

Wednesday, October 9th 1867. Hon. Joseph M. Logan, Judge Presiding

The State

Murder.

vs

George Thomas. The Attorney General appeared to further prosecute on behalf of the State, and the said George Thomas is brought to the Bar of the Court in Custody of the Sheriff, and the same jury who were respited from rendering their Verdict on yesterday, to wit: Samuel Courtney, James A. Jones, James Davis, James Early, William B. Porter, David Luster, Greene Pressley, Thomas N. Price, John Starves, William Beal, Alexander Skelton and Richard Morrisett, returned into Court and resumed the further consideration of the cause, and progress having been made in the cause

15

the Jury are respited from rendering their Verdict until to Morrow.

James F Jones,
Constable, is sworn to take charge of the Jury and keep them together in some convenient apartment, Separately and apart from other Citizens, and without permitting any other person to have any communications with them until their return into Court on to Morrow Morning.

Thursday, October 10th 1867. Hon. Joseph M Logan
Judge Presiding.

The State Murder.
vs

George Thomas. This Day the Attorney General appeared to prosecute on behalf of the State, and the said George Thomas is brought to the bar of the Court in custody of the Sheriff, and also came the same Jury who were respited on yesterday to wit: Samuel Courtney, James A Jones, James Davis, James Carley, William B. Porter, David Luster, Breece Pressley, Thomas N. Price, John Starnes, William Beal, Alexander Sketton, and Richard Morrisett, who upon their oaths do say, that the Defendant is not guilty.

of Murder in the first Degree. But that he is guilty of Murder in the second Degree, and that they fix the term of his confinement in the Penitentiary of the State at eleven years. And thereupon the Defendant entered a rule for a new trial, which rule is Overruled and Discharged by the Court. To which action of the Court in refusing him a new trial, the Defendant excepts in Law, and files his Bill of exceptions, which is signed and sealed by the Court, and Ordered to be made a part of the Record.

And the Defendant being at the Bar of the Court. It is considered therefore by the Court that for this his offence, in accordance with the Verdict of the Jury, He be Confined at hard labor, in the Jail and Penitentiary House of the State of Tennessee, for the period of Eleven years, from this Day, that he be rendered infamous and incapable of being examined as a witness in any of the Courts of this State, And that the Sheriff of Hawkins County, carry this judgment into effect by Delivering the said Defendant, to the Keeper of the Penitentiary at as early a Day as practicable, and that the Defendant pay the costs of this cause for which Execution may issue, From which judgment of the Court the Defendant prayed an appeal

17

in the nature of a writ of error to the next Term of the Supreme Court, to be held at Knoxville on the second Monday in September next, which is granted, Ordered that the said George Thomas be remanded to jail.

Bill of Exceptions.

State	v.	Indictment for Murder. In the Circuit Court of
vs.		Hawkins County, Special Term
George Thomas.		September 1867.

Be it Remembered that on the 8th Day of October 1867. the above cause came on to be heard before the Hon Joseph M Logan, Special Judge, and a Jury of lawful men, Citizens of Hawkins County, being sworn to try the issue of lawe, thereupon the State to maintain the issue on its part introduced the following witnesses, who testified as follows to wit:

Elizabeth Wright.

Said, that the Defendant, George Thomas, had been to her house two or three times before the killing of her husband, in search of him, in company with Wells Jones, W. W. Winger and John Goodwin, and on the 27th of June, 1864.

early in the morning. Wells Jones, John Goodwin, and George Thomas, with others, eighteen in all, came there and arrested Samuel Wright, my husband. The dog kept barking before daylight, and I told my husband that something was the matter. He said "no" He reckoned not. He then got up and started from the house after his mare, when he got a little piece from the house. I heard somebody beat him and went to the door, and heard them say they had been lying out ever since before the chickens crossed watching, with an oath. George Thomas told my husband he had been carrying news to the Yankees, your son is with the Yankees, and you will be against us next. My husband told him he had never loaded a gun on either side in this war. They searched him, took his pocket book, his knife and half a dollar in greenbacks. John Goodwin, then asked whether he would go to Bristol or Rogersville, he said to Rogersville. He asked Goodwin if he might not ride his own mare. Goodwin told him he might. George Thomas took the bridle out of my hand and went after the mare. I went with them about one half mile, and then went back after my husband's coat, and took it to him, He told me to go home and do the best I could till he got back, there were

The last words he ever said to me. He never came back though. That same Day about 10 o'clock he was killed. and was brought back to Patsy Andersons. it was about 2 o'clock. when we brought him back. I saw the Bullet he was killed with. He was shot in the head. in the back of the head. The Bullet went through. and came out and went into the ground. Thomas never bothered me any more after he killed my Husband. My Husband was a Union Man, & Voted for Lincoln, this man is the same George Thomas. who was there. Thomas & the Company were Rebels. the killing was in Hawkins County.

Cross Examination.

In the Fall of 1860. we lived in Hawkins Co. and my husband voted for Lincoln all the time. The Company came to our house just at Daylight on the 27th of June 1864. My husband had just got up. they were close to the house. when they halted him. only 40. or 50 yards off. Thomas caught the mare and went round the Road. and the rest of them went through the fields. I did not see George Thomas get with the Company any more. George Williams, was along. I dont know that Thomas was present at the killing of my Husband.

Thomas Barrett.

Said. Sometime in June 1864. a
 Scout of Rebels passed my house in the night. I
 did not see them, they went through my wheat,
 next morning about Sun up they came back the
 same way, and had Sam Wright, with them,
 I knew some of them, George Walters, one or two of
 the Rittledges, some of the Fords, + Sidons, W. Goodwin,
 + Wells Jones, Wells Jones was before the rest. None of whom
 were in sight or hearing, He told me they had Sam
 Wright, + that he was done peetering the country,
 Jones said the Rebels had him, he did not want
 any body to know he was along, I asked him if
 no one had saw him, he said no one but Eli
 Richardson, they had been to Richardsons, and he
 went to keep them from killing Richardson. (The
 conversation between witness, + Wells Jones. Objected to
 objection overruled by the Court, to which ruling
 of the Court Defendant by his counsel excepted)
 I went to work after breakfast and worked on
 till dinner, then made an excuse to go to the
 Shop to see if I could hear what had become
 of Sam Wright, heard that he was killed,
 and went with Dave Hickman, + Philip Minigan
 out to Coldwells Gap, and found Wrights Dead,
 off from the road a little piece. He was lying on

21

his knee. Shot in the back of the head just under his hat, the ball cut his hat band before. Ball was found in the bank before where he lay. It was an ounce ball. He seemed not to have struggled, any after he was shot. Thomas was not with the crowd as they went past my house. I lived about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from where Wright was killed. Saw Thomas hunting for Wright on two occasions before, a week before, and a day or two before. They said they were hunting for Wright and intended to kill him. Goodwin was along. Saw several of the company at the Piney Grove Church, and heard Goodwin say that he intended to kill Sam Wright on first sight. Thomas was there with the crowd, and all were armed, was not very close to them myself. (What witness heard Goodwin say objected to, objection overruled by the Court.)

Cross Examination.

From where Wright lived to my house it was about from $\frac{3}{4}$ to one mile. Thomas was not in the crowd at that time. Don't know that Thomas heard Goodwin talking at the Piney Grove Church.

Pleasant Barratt.

Said of my own knowledge. I -

22.

Don't know any thing about the killing of Sam Wright. did not see the crowd that arrested him. Saw his body after it was in the wagon about two Hundred yards from where he was killed. He was shot through the head. Knew none of the Company. ... No Cross. Examination

Mary Jane Wright.

Said, George Thomas, came to our House, with a whole parcel more and arrested Father, and took him off. Thomas was the first one who captured him, and was shaving him about with his gun. Father told him not to shave him about so, he had a lame leg. He called Father a Bushwhacker, and said he had been to the Yankees. Father said he had not, but had been at home, attending to his own business. Thomas handed him over to John Goodwin, and some others. They took him there. The mare had jumped out of the field towards Andy Derricks. Thomas took the bridle from Mother and went after her, and the other men went off with Father. Thomas took the mare and went to Wells Jones's. They took Father on and killed him. It was soon in the morning they were there just after Daylight. Never saw Father after they took him.

till I saw him Dead. they hauled him back to Patey Andersons in a half mile of home. He was shot in the head, face was beat all to pieces. I knew Thomas when I saw him in time of the War. He is the man who first arrested Father, William Winegar, Wells Jones, Elijah Walters, and Johnny Goodwin were along. There were eighteen or twenty in the crowd. I talked to Thomas afterwards at Mr. Jones' House. went there from School about three weeks after he had killed Father. Thomas was riding our Mare, and I went to take the Mare. He was eating his Dinner. He saw me and came out and jerked the bridle out of my hand, threatened to kill me. I gave him and he said he would put me where he had put my Damned old Bushwhacking Father. He then just rode off. Said nothing else. Thomas had been at our House searching for Father, on Sunday Morning before they arrested him. A man that Thomas called one of the Phipps' was with him. He asked for Father, and said he had been to the Yankees, at Knoxville, and Damned if He did not kill him. every time he come he said he wanted to kill him, he had been at our house a week before. Said nothing else that

I recollect of.

Cross Examinations.

When they arrested Father Thomas was there, the
Moore jumped out of the field, the Crowd took
Father one way and Thomas went the other. Don't
know that they went to Jones: of my own knowledge.
Don't know that Thomas got with them, I boreamed
Thomas at Jones: a good deal, Cursed him good.

Cosby Anne Johnson.

Said, am the Daughter of
Samuel Wright, Did not live at home when
they took Pap off, lived at Eli Richardsons.
They came to Richardsons before day. Came
there after they took Father, they came into the room
upstairs where I was sleeping and woke me up.
Goodwin was along, William Winegar, and George
Williams, George Thomas, was not there at that time.
I think there was about thirty of them, It was
soon in the morning, just at Daylight, saw Thomas
at 10 o'clock, in the Road at Stephens Darters, three
miles from our house. Father was there with the board
at 8 o'clock, I went up to Lee Rhodes: after breakfast
+ to see Betsy Jane Rice, Pap was at Mr: Steve Darters,
eating his breakfast as I went along, met the
Defendant, George Thomas, and Bill Winegar, coming

from where they had killed Father, about three miles from our House. at 1 o'clock, they were about half a mile from Mr Darters, Father was shot in the head, and lying on his face, the Bullet was found, he was shot above the eye, the Ball went into the root of a tree. I met Bill Winegar and Thomas right this side of Steve Darters going up the Road, I asked Thomas what they had Done with Pap. he muttered out something I did not understand, Winegar said they had sent him up, cursed a little and went on, that was about 12 o'clock, and about one & half miles from I found Father, they were coming up the road, I expect they had been to Mr Winegar's, they went down there to tell it, I went on to Winegar and then I turned back and went to where Father was, they had been there after him twice, did not say what they wanted with him, I was not at home.

Cross Examination

Jane was at home that night, they come to Mr Richardson's just at day light, Thomas was not along, I saw Thomas at 12 o'clock three miles from Father, met Thomas & Winegar, going toward where father was, the crowd were at Richardson's about a quarter

of an hour, it was before daylight, did not see them take Father off, dont know who killed him, or who took him off

Elijah Walter

Said, on the night before Sam Wright was arrested the soldiers were in Isaiah Darters clover field, we went on to Wright's, Wright left the house on the side where Thomas was and he arrested Wright, he was taken to Stephen Darter, Wright was some 40 or 50 yards out from his house when he was arrested, he was going across the field, he said to see about his mare. Sicut Goodwin sent George Williams, Bill Vinegar, and George Thomas off with Wright, Wright was killed between Stanley & Caney valley, in a hollow, about 25 miles from Stephen Darter, They were sent off in the morning about 8 o'clock, Wright was arrested just about daylight, they said he was at home with the bushwhackers, I saw Thomas & Vinegar, and Williams that evening at Robt Darter, they said Sam Wright was killed, George Williams said he had killed Wright, The company left Stephen Darter in the forepart of the day, I never heard Thomas the

Defendant say any thing about Wright before
nor after

Cross Examination

I was along with the company, the Lieut came
and took me along, I guarded Wright, It was
two or three miles from Wright's house to Stephen
Denton's.

James Collins.

Said, the day that Wright was
killed I saw Thomas with them, think it was
about three years last June, I helped them
that evening to get Wright away from where
he was killed. Saw George Williams, William
Winegar, & Mr Thomas along with Wright,
going past My house they were going in the
direction of the place where Wright was killed
Wright was walking pretty close to that man
Williams' horse, he was found two or three hours,
may be more after they went along with him
up a hollow and off the road, I helped
put Wright's body in the wagon. He was
lying on his face like a man who had got
down to get a drink, I did not see Thomas,
Williams and Winegar any more that day, I live
about two miles from Wright's, Thomas the

Defendant came to my shop about two weeks after the occurrence. Thomas said he did not kill Wright, he said Williams did and he was glad of it. No cross Examination

Emanuel Rutledge

Said, in passing across the country into Coney Valley I met ~~Mr~~ Wingar, Geo. Thomas, and George Williams with old man Wright. George Williams seemed to have him in particular charge. Mr Wright spoke to me, and Williams kept on with him, but Wingar & Thomas, stoped with me a while dont recollect whether I asked him or whether Thomas said they had taken Wright that morning in some field near where Wright lived. Thomas said that they were going to take him over to some of Davglans men on the Stage Road & he reconed they would send him on to Bristol, I told them not to hurt him, they said they wouldnt hurt the old man. Wright and Williams, had got on a piece before we parted, Wingar and Thomas seemed anxious to be going on, I went on my errand and as I came back met the same three men about one mile from where I had met them

29 before, Geo Williams, said that there was a man in the woods back yonder dead and wished that I would see to having him buried. I did not know whether he was in earnest and told him he had as well see to it himself, and then turned to the other boys and said "You wicked wretches you have not killed that man". Williams did not give them time to reply but spoke up saying no they did not but I did kill him, I know Thomas and this is the man

C. P. Cross, Examination

James W. Payne

Said, I dont personally know anything about the matter, did not see it done, on the morning of the same day that Wright was killed. Thomas, Bill Kingan & Lieutenant Goodwin were at my house, but dont think that I recollect any of the others with them, they asked me if I knew how many bushwhackers there were at Sam Wrights, that they were going there to catch bushwhackers, did not say any thing about Wright, there were 8 or 10 of them in the crowd, It was an hour or so before day light, I think the moon was

shining, saw Thomas on his return, the Wrights man
I asked him if they had caught any bushwhack-
-ers, he said no, but that they had arrested
Wright and that they were going to take him
out of the Neighborhood where he would not
pester them any more

No cross Examination

Andrew Dewick.

Said, Thomas the Defendant
passed my house just a little before day, asked
if I knew who he was and if any one had passed
there, knocked at the door in the morning about
sun up, came back riding Wrights nag, I said
to him you have Wrights nag, he replied yes, and
we have Wright too, and said that they intended
to send him up, or to kill him I dont recollect
which, for he said Wright had waylaid his
house on the Sunday night before to kill him.
Thomas said he would send him up. He was
going in a North West course past my house

Cross Examination

There were two or three men in my yard with Mr
Thomas, in the morning

David Hickman.

Said, on the morning they should have killed Wright. I met Thomas & Scribner, after crossing a little about the mare Thomas said yes, they had the mare and they had saw Wright too, then I asked Thomas what they were going to do with him, he said they were going to put him where he would not steal any more horses or do any more evilment. When I requested him not to have Wright hurt, he made no reply, that was about sun up, about one mile from Wright's house. I saw Wright that evening, never heard Thomas say any thing about Wright before that. I live two miles, or over, from Wright. No Cross Examination

Hogan Johnson.

Said, dont know any thing about it, except what Thomas told me, he told me that he was there when Wright was arrested, some time after it was done, Thomas left the Country sometime after the war, dont know what made him leave he was passing about regularly, never concealed himself that I know of

No Cross Examination

A. D. Johnson

Said I know nothing except what the boys said, Thomas told me that he was along when Wright was arrested, and that Goodwin asked Wright whether he would prefer to go to Rogersville or Bristol. Wright chose to go to Rogersville, and that Lieut Goodwin detailed the prisoner Thomas, Bill Winegar and George Williams to take him, and after going a mile or so Wright got down on a log and refused to go any further, Williams ordered him to go on, and Wright refused to do so, and that Winegar and Thomas left them on the log together. I saw Thomas frequently, he left the County after the war, did not scout around, I think and said when he came back that he had been to Indiana. He left in the Spring of 1865 he came in Augt 1866 I think. Thomas wife is a half niece of mine

Cross Examination

Lieut Goodwin came to my house inquiring for Thomas the day before Wright was killed, saying that he was going to arrest him. Thomas had been at home two or three weeks I don't think Thomas ever kept himself concealed after Wright was killed, while he stayed here

It was hard for any body to tell what Sam Wright was doing the war, he claimed to be a Rebel. Wright and his son came to my home with two Rebel Soldiers and took a horse from me it was a sorrel mare that had been left there by some rebel soldiers, the horses had rebel saddles and equipments on, Wright volunteered in the rebel company one day when they were beating up for volunteers at my house.

Willie Wilson

Said all I know about the affair Thomas told me on the 29th day of June 1864 he said that he and some men had gone to Mr Wrights house and had taken him out and killed him, and that he had got a nag from Wright, and called it Betsy Wright I want be positive but as well as I recollect Thomas said he shot Wright himself, that Wright was shot in the back of the head and the ball came out in front, and he said that was the way they ought to serve all bushwhackers. I think the conversation was had on the other side of Clinch Mountain, he was boasting. I was a prisoner and Thomas was guarding me Thomas said Wright was a damned bushwhacker.

Cross Examination

I never expected to be called up about it and did not change my memory with the conversation there was a good deal of talking going on at the time of the conversation and we were riding along; never saw Thomas, till the day before, did not know George Williams, but there was a man along who said he was George Williams

And the Defendant Submitted the following evidence to sustain his plea of Not guilty to wit:

Stephen Darter.

Said, I lived about four miles from where Saml. Wright lived, the Company Stopped at my house the Morning after Wright was taken, George Thomas was not along.

Cross Examinations.

Do not recollect all of them, W. Vaughn, Elijah Walters, and one of the Eidsons, were there, there were six or seven of them in all. got to my house about the time we were done eating breakfast, they went back the same way they come, went towards the place where Wright was found Dead.

Robert Darter.

Said, Sam Wright, was taken June 1864. We pulled our flax that day. I was at home all day. I knew George Williams. He was at my house on that day, came from the direction where Wright's body was found. Had an army gun. Stopped in the Road, and talked a while, about twelve or one o'clock.

The Defendant by his counsel proposed to ask the Witness the following question.

What did George Williams say to you about the killing of Wright. To which the Attorney General objected. The objection was sustained by the Court. Whereupon the Defendant by his counsel excepted to the ruling of the Court.

Defendant proposed to prove by the following witnesses, to wit: Daniel Barry, Samuel L. Henderson, and Joseph Shelton, how Williams had detailed the killing of Wright to them, and also that Williams was a man of desperate character, (Williams being jointly indicted with Defendant). The declarations of Williams: were objected to by the Attorney General, and the Court held that Williams: declarations were not admissible. Which ruling of the Court the

Defendant by his Counsel excepted to.

The above was all the evidence adduced in the cause.

Whereupon, after the argument the Court charged the Jury, who retired to consider of the case, and after considering the Cause for some time returned into Court with a Verdict of guilty of Murder in the Second Degree, and fixing the Term of imprisonment in the Penitentiary at Eleven years. Thereupon the Defendant by his Counsel entered a Motion for a New trial, which Motion on being argued was overruled by the Court. Whereupon the Defendant prayed an appeal to the next Term of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, to be held at Knoxville on the 2nd Monday in Sept next, and tendered this his Bill of Exceptions, and prays that the same might be signed and sealed and made a part of the Record in this cause.

J. M. Logan
Special Judge &c.

There being no exceptions to the Charge of the Court on either side, the same is not furnished.

Bill of Costs.

State Tax \$ 3.50. Recording 13 bills 709 words 70. Judgments	
25. Capias 75. Alias Capias 75. Pleuries Capias 75. Subpoena for 29 Witnesses \$ 2.90. 7 Docketings 70. 1 Continuance 25	
Jury 50. Judgment final 75. Judgment for Cost 25. taxing cost 50. 32 Probates \$ 1.60. Motion for New trial 25. Order of Appeal. 25. Transcript 7000 words \$ 7.00 Certificate and Seal 50.	\$ 22.15
Deput Sheriff James Brooks. 1 arrest	1. 00
" " Joseph Wallace. 1 return not found	25
" " J H Pearson 1 return not found	25.
Deput Samuel Barnett. for Summoning 9 Witnesses	2. 25
Deput Joseph Wallace. for Summoning 10 Witnesses	2 50
Witnesses for the State	
James Payne 4 Days 64 Miles travel	6. 56
Thomas Barnett 5. Days 64 Miles travel	7 56
A. D. Johnson. 5 Days 60 Miles travel	7. 40
Samuel Barnett 4 Days 70 Miles travel	6 80.
Andrew Demick 5. Days 64 Miles travel.	7. 56
W. A. K. Wilson 6 Days.	6. 00
James Collins 5 Days 70 Miles travel	7. 80
Wilson Davis 2. Days 26 Miles travel	3. 04
Lewis Anderson. 2. Days 36. Miles travel	3. 44
Elizabeth Payne. 2 Days 34 Miles travel	3. 36
Elizabeth Wright 7 Days. 102. Miles travel	11 04.
Mary Q Wright 7 Days 102. Miles travel	11 04.

Crosby Ann Johnson 7 Days 102 miles travel	11.04
Hogan F Johnson 5 Days 60 miles travel	7.40
Pleasant Barnett 2 Days 34 miles travel	3.36
Emanuel Rutledge 3 Days 24 miles travel	3.96
Philip Winegar 3 Days 34 miles travel	4.36
David Hickman 3 Days 34 miles travel	4.36
Attorney General Brittons Tax fee	10.00
James B. Pace for Boarding Jury 3 Days at \$9.00 per Day	<u>27.00</u>
	\$ 181.48

Defendants Cost.

Subpoena for 14 Witnesses 70. 6 Probates.	\$ 1.00
Deputy J. D. Wells for Summoning 5 Witnesses	1.25
" Ben Rogers for Summoning 4 Witnesses	1.00
Deputy Elias Beal for Summoning 2 Witnesses	.50
Deputy John Davis for Summoning 1 Witness	.25

Defendants Witnesses

Stephen Darter 2 Days 76 miles travel	5.04
Robert Darter 7 Days 108 miles travel	11.32
Joseph Skelton 2 Days 40 miles travel	<u>3.60</u>
Judgment of Court October 10 th 1867	\$ 23.96

State of Tennessee.

J. W. Mc Piper, Clerk of the Circuit and Criminal Courts for Hawkins County, State aforesaid. Do certify that the foregoing is a full and perfect Transcript of the Record and proceedings in the Case of the State vs. George Thomas, as the same appears from the Records and files in my office. Given under my hand and Seal of office at office in Rogersville this 13th Day of August A.D. 1869.

J. W. Mc Piper, Clerk.

Index.

	<u>Page</u>
Captions, and Verire.	1.
Grand Jury.	2.
Bill of Indictment	3
Endorsements on Bill of Indictment	6
Capias. & Endorsements	7
Alias Capias Ordered. Alias Capias	8
Endorsement on alias Capias	9
Pluries Capias, & Endorsements.	10
Continuance	11
Captions of Court.	11
Commission of Joseph M. Logan Special Judge.	11

Empanneling Jury.	13.
Jury Accepted	14
Verdict of Jury. + Judgment of Court.	15
Bill of Exceptions	17.
Witness. Elizabeth Wright	17.
" Thomas Barrett	20
" Pleasant Barrett.	21
" Mary Jane Wright	22.
" Cosby Anne Johnson	24.
" Elijah Walters	26
" James Collins	27.
" Emanuel Rutledge	28
" James W Payne.	29.
" Andrew Derrick	30
" David Hickman	31
" Hogan F Johnson.	31
" A. D. Johnson.	32.
" Willie Wilson	33.
" Stephen Darter	34
" Robert Darter	35
Proposition of Defendant to make prof.	35
No Exceptions to change of the Court.	36
Bill of Costs.	37.
Certificate	39.

A suggestion: To find your way around Old Hawkins County, pre-Hancock, someone made a spectacular map which helps. With James L. Douthat's masterpiece, used in conjunction with census dwellings in the various civil tax districts of 1836, one can follow the individuals named in the transcription of the 1865 trial of George Thomas v. State. Here is map information:

"The legal authority for the establishment of civil tax districts was established by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1835, which also provided detailed instructions for defining the tax district boundaries. The assembly directed the county commissioners, whom they charged with this responsibility, to use county lines, rivers, creeks, mountain ridges, roads and any other natural or artificial marks in this effort. For the most part, these "other" marks constituted the use of existing property boundaries of individual landowners. While the ground location of these properties are not known with certainty at the present time, reference to modern day 1:24,000 scale USGS quads has allowed many of the ridges, streams, fords and road locations to be positively indentified. This report produces an update to Douthat's tax district map based on a direct comparison of the published district boundary descriptions to the geographic elements reflected on modern day maps. Consequently, some parts of the boundaries were established with a high degree of certainty, while other parts remains uncertain."

Ancestry.com. 1830 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:
Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Original data: Fifth Census of the United States, 1830.
(NARA microfilm publication M19, 201 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Map Info

Hawkins County 1836 Tennessee Civil Districts and Tax Lists, James L. Douthat, Mountain Press, PO Box 400, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, 1993

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~berry/newupload/figures/hawkins_county_1836_tax_districts.jpg

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Conclusion concerning the Trial Transcript of George Thomas for the 1864 Murder of Samuel Wright

My Analysis

The forty page transcript of the Hawkins County trial of George Thomas for the 1864 murder of Samuel Wright contains a wealth of legal, social, political, geographical, family, and historical information. Civil War historians have neglected to tell the whole truth of East Tennesseans in the war—this legal transcript gives the Appalachian people of then and there a voice. Someone should have listened to them a long time ago.

It is generally known that George Thomas was found guilty and sentenced to eleven years for his part in the murder of Samuel Wright at the hands of a Confederate mob in 1864. Wright was killed because he backed the United States and its President, Abraham Lincoln. This transcript includes four others who were... “carried to prison” for the killing. Also included are the names of ten who were indicted but got away... “not to be found in my county,” testified various sheriffs.

Those ten fugitives from justice have been the subject of my Hawkins and Hancock County research for the past five years and are indirectly linked to an unsolved Vaughan family mystery that has gone on for over a century. Mystery solved in the transcript. My Great-grandfather Vaughan was one of the indicted who ran.

...Be careful what you search for.

The law was not the only thing he was running from. Watching from the porch as Samuel Wright was attacked and taken away by the armed rabble was his teenage son, James Wright. Young Wright grew up, and with a host of sympathetic friends and family in East Tennessee, he spent the rest of his life going after the ones who got away with murdering his dad. The guilty were Confederates. Some of those who sympathized with Wright were Vaughan kin. Besides the mystery involving my great-grandfather's youthful misadventures, it was the post-war interplay between the tendrils of justice and guilt that kept me on the story.

My great-great grandmother Malvina Church is a descendant of the Wrights of Hawkins/Hancock Counties. While researching Richard Wright, her grandfather, I got caught up in the intrigue of the Samuel Wright tragedy and the subsequent murder trial of George Thomas—at least in the bits and pieces of the drama that others had shared. For years I read these tidbits with interest because Malvina's kin and that of her husband, Samuel N. Vaughan, mixed and mingled in the affairs of the notorious Wright Gang. The saga of the gang and its leader Jim Wright carried on in their Appalachian stronghold for over thirty years, until Wright was killed in 1902. It seems that the killing of Samuel Wright touched about everybody, one way or another in his East Tennessee neighborhood. Finally, I sent to Tennessee's Secretary of State for the transcript of *Tennessee v. Thomas* and bought two copies—one, written in 1865 and the other in 1869. Both are easy to read and basically say the same thing. I hoped to see for myself what was going on. I could tell there was a lot of Civil War history going on that I had never heard of. Mostly, I wanted to know why my kinfolk were running with a gang of outlaws. That was before I found out that my great-grandfather had to run *from* the outlaws at the same time he was running *from* the law.

Four years ago the recorded exploits of these so-called outlaws inspired me to write, [Biographical Sketch of Nancy Vaughan: a Legacy of Outlaws, Born of the Civil War](#). Nancy, born in 1807 Tennessee, is the daughter of John and Nancy Callicott Vaughan and is the sister of Samuel N., and thus the aunt of George Washington Vaughan; these Vaughans were lifelong neighbors. After reading, *State of Tennessee vs George Thomas*, I can see I need to make some changes to her story. At least I can reveal the reason she and her husband David Hickman turned over their house to a band of outlaws. Her story, and that of George Washington Vaughan, help tell the untold Civil War history of East Tennessee.

George Washington Vaughan (1846-1920) was a Confederate soldier. The son of Malvina Church and Samuel N. Vaughan, he lived in Texas into the twentieth century—long enough for my father and other kinfolk to remember him well enough to talk about him. He was wealthy, well-respected, and he adored my daddy, and, in turn, Daddy remembered him as “a good old man.” It was known, however, that he had lived a secret life during his youth, a life he never talked about to anyone. Part of his secret was lingering in these papers, along with yet another untold episode of the Civil War. Still, there is

nothing to help shed light on why he chose to fight against his family and neighbors who believed in the republic of United States.



Once Upon a Vaughan Road in--Tennessee v. George Thomas Murder Trial ©, 2017
By Helen Vaughan Michael, Great-granddaughter of George Washington Vaughan

End Page