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DISCLAIMER

We have attempted to publish an accurate and factual account of people, places, and things in Lincoln County, Tennessee using material submitted by individuals both in Lincoln County and with ties to Lincoln County. We wish to thank these individuals for their material and their support for this project; without their stories and their views of Lincoln County, this book would not have been possible.

During the processing of material for this book, judgments had to be made on the material submitted to the Book Committee. We, as Book Committee members, a totally volunteer staff, have done our best to produce a book free of errors; however, with such a large volume of material, we realize that there will be errors found and for this we apologize.

We received an overwhelming response to our request for material for this book. We, therefore, made the judgment to omit sources provided by submitters, in an effort to conserve the needed space for the material in the book. Should you, as a reader, have any questions concerning sources for material on any family or topical story contained in this book, please contact the author who submitted the material. Submitters retain responsibility for their material. It should be noted that material or stories that exceeded the standard allowances on word and photo limits had additional coverage paid for by the submitting authors.

It is the hope of the Book Committee, whose members have donated numerous hours to this project, that our efforts have produced a Lincoln County Tennessee Heritage Book that will be read and appreciated for many years.

The Lincoln County Tennessee Heritage Book Committee

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CHARLES H. B. BROWNING

Charles H. Benton (Bud) Browning was born 9 Jul 1837, the fifth child and the first son born to Robert Jonathan Browning and Frances W. Biles. He was listed in their household in the 1850 census of Giles County, TN. Charles married Sarah F. Grubbs 28 Jan 1858 in Lincoln County, TN. She was born 30 Sep 1837. Charles was the son of Robert Jonathan Browning and Frances W. Biles. They had 12 children. Some of their children were:

Charles Benton, Jr. (1859-1938), who lived in Texas and died in 1938.

John Alexander (1860-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

William Henry (1862-1933), who lived in Texas and died in 1933.

Sarah (1863-1943), who lived in Texas and died in 1943.

Mary Ann (1865-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

Margaret Jane (Kitty) (1867-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

Charlotte (1869-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

Frances Almeda (1871-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

Wade (1872-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

The accompanying photo is of their daughter, Laura Fulfer, who was born in 1916 and died in 1982. She was the daughter of Charles H. Benton and Sarah F. Grubbs. She was married to Jim Fulfer, who was born in 1914 and died in 1990. They had 3 children: Laura, Susan Frances, and Charles H. Jr. (Charles H., Jr. died in 2008). The family lived in Texas and died in 1982. They were buried in the Brownsville City Cemetery. The photo shows the family's home in 1910, with the children in front of the house. The family was well-known in the community and was respected for their hard work and dedication to their family and community. The photo was taken by Charles H. Benton, Sr., who was born in 1859 and died in 1938. He was married to Sarah F. Grubbs, who was born in 1837 and died in 1938. They had 12 children. Some of their children were:

Charles Sr. (1859-1938), who lived in Texas and died in 1938.


William Henry (1862-1933), who lived in Texas and died in 1933.

Sarah (1863-1943), who lived in Texas and died in 1943.

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Wade (1872-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.

When the Civil War broke out, Charles was a farmer and lived in Tennessee. He was 20 years old and had just married Sarah. He was drafted into the Confederate army and served as a private in Captain Hunnicutt's Company, Tennessee Infantry. He was mustered into service on 1861 and was mustered out of service on 1865. He fought in several battles, including the Battle of Shiloh and the Battle of Corinth. He was wounded several times and was captured by the Union army in 1864. He was released from captivity in 1865 and returned to his family in Tennessee. The family lived in Tennessee and died in 1982. They were buried in the Brownsville City Cemetery. The photo shows the family's home in 1910, with the children in front of the house. The family was well-known in the community and was respected for their hard work and dedication to their family and community. The photo was taken by Charles H. Benton, Sr., who was born in 1859 and died in 1938. He was married to Sarah F. Grubbs, who was born in 1837 and died in 1938. They had 12 children. Some of their children were:

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Wade (1872-1935), who lived in Texas and died in 1935.
819 TALAFERO DOLLINS FAMILY

Presley Dollins was born 7/9/1751 in Albemarle or Orange County, Virginia and died in Lincoln County on 1837. He was the son of Richard and Elizabeth Dollins who migrated to Virginia from Wales in 1732. Rev. Edgar Wood's History of Albemarle County, Virginia, page 180, states, "the family of Dollins has been established in the county from early times. The first of the family was Richard who in 1761 bought land on the headwaters of Mechum's River.... Some of the earliest nurseries in the county were planted by members of this family and on this account the name is well known with the cultivation of fruit." Dollins family descendent still operate nurseries in Virginia to the present time. Presley married Ruth Alexander, born 1754, Charlottesville, Virginia, and died c1810-12, daughter of Hugh and Jane Kinkead Alexander. According to Presley's Revolutionary Pension Application, he served in the Virginia Militia prior to removing to Lincoln County, Tennessee, along with other family members, where they settled and bought land in 1812-1814. The children of Presley and Ruth were: David, Talafro, Joel, John, Jane, Ann, and Susannah. Talafro was born in 1780 and died between 1763-1770. He was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace in Lincoln County in 1812. His wife was probably named Elizabeth. Their children were Joel, John, William, Mary Ann Ruth, Miles, Margaret, Jane, Caroline, Marion, Milton and Anna. The family worshipped at Mt. Hebron Cumberland Presbyterian Church. All but the first born probably farmed along the west fork of Norris Creek. A school is known to have been established in 1840 at their home with 1 teacher and 20 students. Joel married Margaret Summerford, Margaret married Hardy Colter, Jane married (1) James H. Fuller, (2) Thomas. Margaret married Susan Ruth, whom his farm was named "Alexander Brownings." In the War Between the States, Milton fought with the 8th Reg't Tennessee Volunteers, Wright's Brigade, Cheatham Division, Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted 5/18/1861, was wounded at Murfreesboro, taken prisoner at Stones River, and died from his wounds on 2/10/1863. In February of 1862, from South Tennessee Volunters, Wright's Brigade, Cheatham Division, Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted 5/18/1861, was wounded at Murfreesboro, taken prisoner at Stones River, and died from his wounds on 2/10/1863. In February of 1862, from South Tennessee Volunters, Wright's Brigade, Cheatham Division, Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted 5/18/1861, was wounded at Murfreesboro, taken prisoner at Stones River, and died from his wounds on 2/10/1863. In February of 1862, from South Tennessee Volunters, Wright's Brigade, Cheatham Division, Hardee's Corps, Army of Tennessee. He enlisted 5/18/1861, was wounded at Murfreesboro, taken prisoner at Stones River, and died from his wounds on 2/10/1863. In February of 1862, from South were to practice in Fayetteville for about a year, then move back to High Point, NC, where he had attended school, to establish a permanent practice.

He met Claudia Taylor, daughter of Joseph and Mary Taylor, when she was a school-girl. Jessie was an employee with the L & N Railroad and with the Union Bank. Claudia and L.M. were married in 1944 at Franklin, TN after she had graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville.

Claudia taught school for 30 years before retiring. She began her career at "Gassymame," so called by everyone who knew it, probably for Gethsemane of the Bible. She taught grades one through eight there and at Mulberry. She later taught at Market Street and Bagley (Askins). After retirement, Claudia cared for her elderly parents and became a volunteer at the hospital where she is still active. She is a member of St. Paul A.ME Church.

Dr. Donalson never moved his practice to North Carolina. He became an established physician in Fayetteville and achieved many honors including the designation as General Practitioner of the year in 1959 by the National Medical Association, and was the first black to hold that post.

Lincoln County Hospital, which had been founded in 1917, did not admit blacks in the 1930s. In 1932, there was no hospital for Negroes within 80 miles of Fayetteville.

The doctors would operate on a kitchen table, in the dining room or living room of the patient's house, wherever there was room and light. They would operate in both the heat and cold and had helpers to fight off swarming insects and dust that circulated in the main shift operating rooms. They soon acquired a portable operating table that they carried on a car to the patient's home.

Dr. Donalson was successful in establishing a hospital for the Black Community in Lincoln County and surrounding areas. See the article on Donalson Hospital for more information.


Submitted by: Claudia Donalson, 407 Market Street, Fayetteville, TN 37334

821 DEE J. DOUTHIT

Dee J., son of M.Y. and Mary Jane Duris Douthit, married Fannie Medora Thorpe and raised ten children: Katie Mae Taylor, Charlie, Louise Storey, Harry, Annie "Bib" Storey, Buford "Boots" Ruby Nichols, Earl, Cheatham and John (the three little boys). Pap and Mammy lived on the same farm all their married life on Big Russell Road. Pap ran a steam powered wheat thresher, traveling to farms as requested. Lodging and meals were shared by the employing families until the job was done. Also, a saw mill was operated in several locations.

Mam set the table for at least two dozen people at a meal including farm hands. My dad said you could always tell when the last pan of biscuits was on the table because the little wad of dough was last. A cyclone struck in the early 1900's and killed Grandma Donalson and brook Pap's nose. The two story house was rebuilt similarly. They lived there until 1943 when it was destroyed by fire. There was mass confusion and chaos. A call for an ambulance proved worthless when the receiver was left dangling by Aunt Bid, thus the operator couldn't assist. The children were always instructed by Mam that if the house ever caught fire, the important papers and her teeth were in the round tin and it was to be saved first. Uncle Charlie was "saving" the china and dishes by going to the door and throwing them out to the ground. Aunt Louise ran to get a bucket of water from the creek, jumped in, and came back throwing the water at the blaze. Mammy never knew the house burned because she carried her out on a feather bed. Pap died the same year. My dad, John (the baby) was serving in WWI then.

Some 50 years later a tornado touched down in the same spot twisting the house structure and it had to be destroyed. My cousin John Douglas (Cheatham's son), and Pap reside there now.

Submitted by: Rexine Douthit Pigg, Hotkot, TN

822 ANNIE MAE DRENNON

Annie Mae Hamlin was the third child of William Hamlin, born April 10, 1898, died October 29, 1945, and Rena (Irene Stone) Hamlin, born December 25, 1865, died May 10, 1928. They are buried at Rose Hill Cemetery, Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Annie Mae married Ben Elbert Drennon, April 4, 1908 in Lincoln County, Tennessee. They purchased the farm they farmed from Taft, Tennessee owned by Al Taft and Grady Stannet. Annie Mae raised chickens, had cows to milk, and had gardens.

Ben and Annie Mae had nine children, all born in Lincoln County near Taft, Tennessee. They passed away in 1973, Velmia and Velma on November 9, 1911, died December 29, 1911. Dolas, born February 24, 1915, died June 15.