

**Town of Thompson's Station
Parks Board
Meeting Agenda
July 29 2019**

Meeting Called To Order

New Business:

1. Signs – Preservation Park – Draft Text/Language For Historic Marker Signs

Documents:

PRESERVATION PARK FINAL PANELS__UPDATE.PDF
THOMPSON-STATION-MARCH-5.PDF
1960.012.01.PDF
4251 T.C. BANKS HOUSE.PDF
10327 THOMPSON STATION OVERVIEW_EDITED-1.PDF
1559937576490-28EE8FC0-3A2E-4AAC-A258-2E686A519AD3.PDF
DAILY_NASHVILLE_PATRIOT_THU__AUG_23__1855_.PDF
FEBRUARY 14 1935.PDF - ADOBE ACROBAT READER DC 652019 104730
AM.BMP.PDF
P15138COLL23_343_FULL THOMPSON STATION CROP.PDF
P15138COLL23_9055_FULL.PDF
POLKS THOMPSONS STATION 1877.PDF

Adjourn

*This meeting will be held at 8:00 a.m. at the Community Center
1555 Thompson's Station Road West*

Introduction

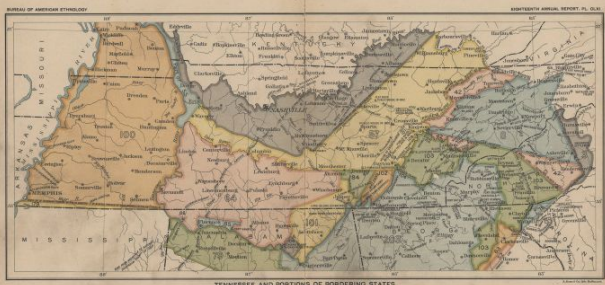
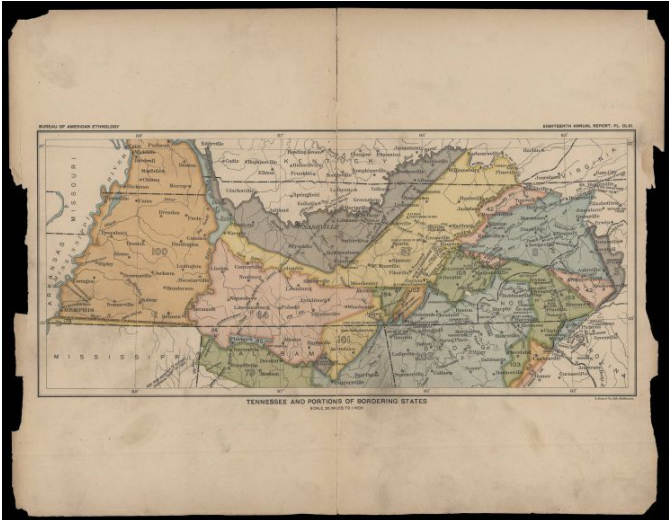
Preservation Park preserves the historical landscape and rural character of the Harpeth River Valley and southern Williamson County. The park's rolling pastures and forested hillsides witnessed early Native Americans, late 18th-century American settlement, the advent of the railroad, a Civil War battle, and vast changes in the agricultural economy.

Around 12,000 years ago, Paleoindians occupied Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio. They left behind thousands of Clovis Points used to kill and butcher large game like mammoths and mastodons. A Paleoindian archaeological site in northern Williamson County, the Coats-Hines site, is one Tennessee's oldest. The site contains the remains of at least three mastodons, stone tools used to butcher the large animal, and remains of smaller animals--deer, muskrat, canid, painted turtle, turkey, frog, and semi-aquatic turtles.

By the time of European exploration in the 16th and 17th centuries, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and other Native American tribes were using this land as a hunting ground. As the American nation expanded westward in the early 19th century, Native Americans entered treaties with the United States government, slowly losing possession of their land. In 1805, the Chickasaw Nation ceded land south of the Duck River and east of the Tennessee River to the United States. In February 1830 the American Indian Removal Act was passed. In August of that year, chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation met in Franklin, Tennessee, to negotiate the Treaty of Franklin. They agreed to cede their remaining land in Alabama and Mississippi for land that they found suitable west of Arkansas. The Cherokee would continue to negotiate their landholdings until their forced removal known today as the Trail of Tears in 1837-1838. The systematic removal of Native Americans from their lands allowed for increased white settlement and agricultural cultivation, particularly of cotton, as well as the expansion of slavery into the deep South.

Image Asset:

Tennessee and portions of bordering states (showing Cherokee and Chickasaw treaty cessions; Gray--Choctaw lands ceded in 1785; Blue--ceded by Cherokee in 1791; Yellow--ceded by Cherokee in 1805; Re--ceded by Cherokee in 1806; Orange--ceded by Chickasaw in 1818)
(Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives Map Collection.)



Early Euro-American Settlement

Following American Independence, land and west of the Appalachian Mountains opened for settlement. Many early settlers were Revolutionary War veterans who received land grants as payment for their service. Among the early settlers was Francis Giddens, a Virginian and Revolutionary War veteran, who arrived in Williamson County around 1800. In 1819 the Giddens family moved into their newly-finished three-story brick home. Later known as Homestead Manor, this home still stands on Columbia Pike, in front of Preservation Park. When Giddens died in 1830, he owned 400 acres of land and 25 enslaved people. Their names were Sarah, Miriah, Sam, Ike, Jesse, Sealy, Harriet, Harriet's children Lucenda and Preston, Dick, Tom Albourn, Andrew, Easter, Viney, Clarborne, Boston, Beck, Henry, Tom, Bill, Ellen, Joe, George, and Mary.

John Thompson settled nearby in 1812, purchasing 2000 acres of land along the headwaters of the West Harpeth River. Thompson's Station would eventually be named after this family, when son, Dr. Elijah Thompson, steered the Tennessee & Alabama Railroad through the area.

By 1850, the 100-acre Homestead Manor was a modest farm valued at \$10,000. Giddens' widowed daughter, Nancy Word, owned the farm worked by 15 enslaved laborers. The farm kept 7 horses, 7 milk cows, 2 working oxen, 5 cattle, 15 sheep, 75 swine and produced wheat (10 bu), corn (10,000 bu), oats (80 bu), cotton (5 bales), wool (70 lb), peas (10 bu), Irish potatoes (20 bu), sweet potatoes (2 bu), butter (208 lb), and honey (200 lb).

Image assets:

Homestead Manor (current or photo from National Register)

Francis Giddens constructed his Georgian style house based on the architecture of his native Louisa County, Virginia. Upon its completion in 1819, Giddens operated an ordinary or inn for travelers. In 2007, the Land Trust for Tennessee acquired a 47-acre conservation easement around the home.



Battle of Thompson's Station, March 5, 1863

When Union and Confederate forces clashed in the irregular hills around Thompson's Station on March 4-5, 1863, Middle Tennessee was caught between two armies. Union victories in Kentucky in 1862 forced Confederates to defend Tennessee. The Confederate Army of the Tennessee and Union Army of the Cumberland fought a bloody stalemate at Stones River near Murphreesboro, December 31, 1862 - January 2, 1863. The Union occupied the town and Confederates retreated south. That winter both armies regrouped; Confederates made plans to reclaim Tennessee and drive north into Ohio, while the Union charged itself with pressing into the Deep South.

On March 4, over 2,500 Union soldiers left Franklin to surveil and forage the front along Columbia Pike toward Spring Hill. Just four miles outside of town, Col. John Coburn's Union men encountered 1,200 Confederate cavalry surveilling the front under Brigadier General William H. Jackson. Jackson, under the command of Major General Earl Van Dorn, had arrived in Columbia two weeks' prior to confront the Union threat. The two sides exchanged artillery fire until Coburn's cavalry attacked. The Confederates made an orderly retreat in the hills south of Thompson's Station. Van Dorn joined his advance cavalry bringing the force to 6,000. Unsure of each other's number, the two armies camped until the next morning. However, during the night each side received intelligence about the other. Van Dorn learned the small size of the enemy, while Coburn learned his foe was larger.

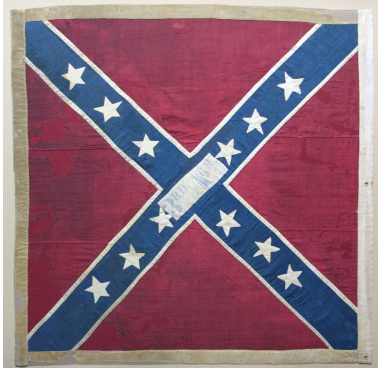
On the morning of the 5th, Coburn executed his orders to press on and took possession of high ground overlooking Thompson's Station, moving his artillery forward. Below, the Confederates occupied the town with pickets stationed on either side of Columbia Pike. Coburn's men pushed forward into the town only to be repulsed by the Confederates. When some of Coburn's artillery and cavalry escorted wagon trains back to Franklin, General Nathan B. Forrest's cavalry rode east to flank Coburn and cut off his retreat. Surrounded, Coburn and his remaining men fought off the Confederate attacks for five hours until the exhausted men surrendered.

In all Union losses totaled 1,221 captured, 48 killed, and 267 wounded. Van Dorn reported 357 killed, wounded or missing.

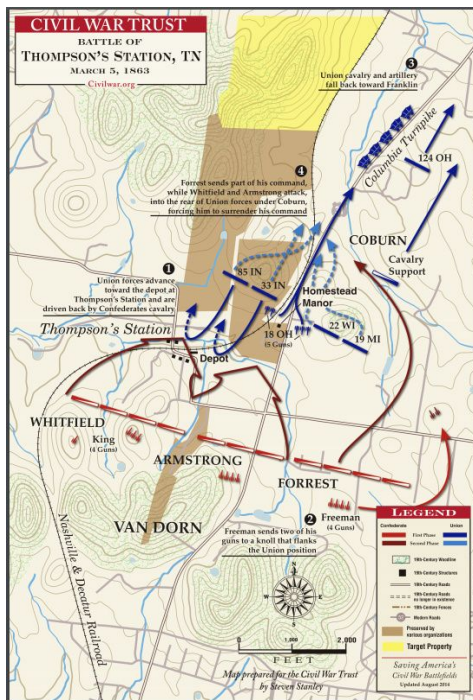
Coburn and his men were marched south, but only briefly imprisoned. By June 1863, most had been exchanged and returned to the North. Coburn would survive the war and serve four terms in Congress from Indiana. Van Dorn would suffer a different fate. He was murdered in nearby Spring Hill on May 7, 1863 by a jealous husband who suspected an affair between him and his wife.

The Battle of Thompson's Station changed little about the outcome of the Civil War in Middle Tennessee. Nashville remained in Union hands throughout the rest of the war, but through the end of 1864 the Confederacy and Union would contest this land.

Image Asset:



During the Battle of Thompson's Station, the Thompson's took refuge in the basement of Homestead Manor, then owned by Charles Banks. Tradition holds that seventeen-year-old Alice Thompson saw the 3rd Arkansas's color bearer fall in the yard and "rushed out, raised the flag, and led the regiment to victory." Image of 3rd Arkansas Regiment flag, courtesy of Old State House Museum, Little Rock, Ark.



Courtesy of American Battlefield Trust

Commerce/Shipping/Train Depot

First known as White House (1833-1836) and then Littlebury (1836-1856), Thompson's Station was named in honor of Dr. Elisha Thompson for his efforts to bring the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad through the area. The railroad connected the "town of Thompson" to Nashville in 1855 and south to Columbia in 1859. A boon to the town's economy, the railroad enabled local farmers to bring grain, including German millet, and livestock for shipment to markets. Destroyed during the Civil War, a new station was constructed in 1866 at a cost of about \$600. By 1877, Thompson's Station was a growing trade center for southern Williamson County. The town boasted about 300 people, 4 stores, a drug store, a steam flouring mill, post office, and several churches.

An early morning fire on February 14, 1889, destroyed "the entire business portion" of the village. According to accounts, only the building of McIntosh & Thompsons survived and most businesses were never rebuilt. Today, the Thompson Station Bank, built in 1913, is the only surviving early 20th-century commercial building. The bank closed in 1927, the result of a changing rural economy. Declining prices hurt farmers throughout the 1920s, and the growing use of cars and trucks to transport goods and people undermined the railroad.

Image assets:

Tennessee & Alabama Railroad Ad "Open to Thompson's Station," *Tennessean*, August 23, 1855.


1877 Business Directory for Thompson's Station in *Polk's Tennessee State Gazetteer*

1878 Map of Thompson's Station, D.G. Beers & Co. Map of Williamson County, Tennessee, 1878. *Courtesy Tennessee State Library and Archives Map Collection.*

1913 Thompson Station Bank (current photo or photo from National Register nomination or from Rick Warwick)

Ca 1940 commercial district showing Roy Regan's store, center and the granary to the left (Courtesy Rick Warwick Photo Collection)

TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA RAILROAD.



OPEN TO THOMPSON'S STATION.

On and after Thursday, August 23d, trains will run between Nashville and Thompson's Station, as follows:

MORNING TRAIN.

Leaves Nashville at 6.30 A. M.; arrives at Thompson's at 8 A. M.

RETURNING—Leaves Thompson's at 8.45 A. M.; arrives at Nashville at 10.30 A. M.

EVENING TRAIN.

Leaves Nashville at 3.15 P. M.; arrives at Thompson's at 5 P. M.

RETURNING—Leaves Thompson's at 5.15 P. M.; arrive at Nashville at 6.45 P. M.

On Sunday the Morning Train only will be run, leaving Nashville at 7 A. M., and Thompson's at 8.45 A. M.

At Thompson's the Stages of Carter, Thomas and Hough connect with the trains.

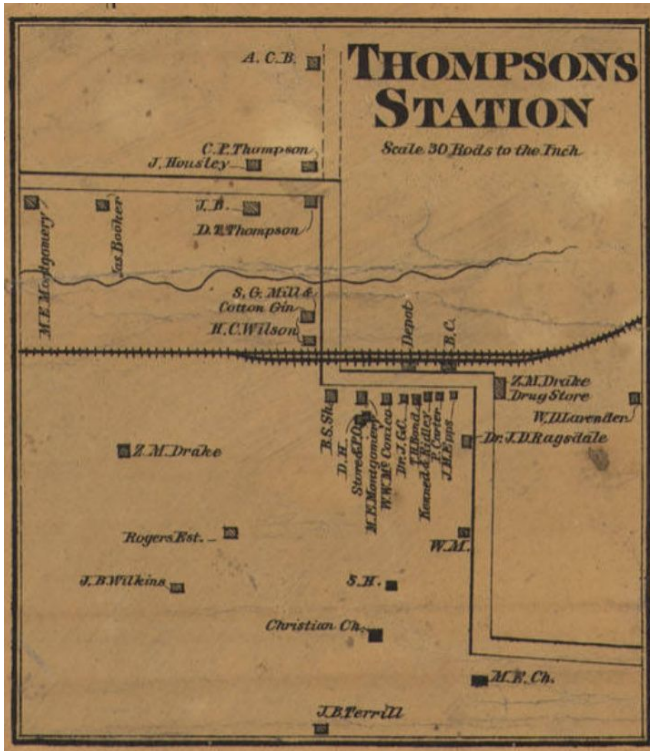
Through Tickets for MEMPHIS, WAYNESBORO, JACKSON, TUSCUMBIA, FLORENCE, FULASKI and COLUMBIA, can be procured at the General Stage Office, under the Verandah Hotel.

A. ANDERSON,
aug 22 R. Eng. and Supt.

REMOVAL.

Business Directory.

Banks & Wilson, produce.
 Core, J. G., physician.
Cotter, Patrick, General Store.
 Epps & Wallace, general store.
 Epps, Wallace & Kitch, produce.
Montgomery, M. E., Flouring Mill.
 Ragsdale, J. D., physician.
 Ragsdale & Montgomery, druggists.
 Stone & Housley, mfrs, and flour merchants.
 Terrell, J. B., general store, express and station agent.
 Wilks, Rev. W. C., (Methodist).
 Willson, H. C., general store.





Agriculture/Terracing/TVA activity

Rock terracing on the hillside behind you dates to the mid-1930s and is evidence of Federal Government programs' drastic impact on rural communities like Thompson's Station. These programs aimed to improve production, conserve soil, and electrify rural areas. The Agricultural Adjustment Act, passed in 1933, was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's answer to the national crisis of low farm prices and overproduction. In April 1935, Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act to preserve fertile topsoil and prevent erosion by encouraging terracing farmland on slopes and discouraging the farming of steep hillsides.

These government efforts relied heavily on local leadership. In places like Thompson's Station, co-ops of local farmers shared information and promoted new farming techniques. According to reports, farmers in Williamson County had pledged 2,500 acres of farmland to terracing by March 16, 1935. Local county committeemen were appointed to solicit more land pledges, and terracing demonstrations were held throughout Williamson County, including at the Lee Ridley farm near Thompson's Station. Women were also important partners in federal efforts in the 1930s. Home Demonstration Clubs operated throughout Williamson County where farm wives were taught valuable skills such as food preservation and educated on the benefits of electricity. Rural women's support helped bring electrification to remote areas.

Image asset:

"For Land's Sake Sow Lespedeza," Ad in *Review-Appeal*, Feb. 14, 1935

1889 1935

**For Land's Sake
SOW LESPEDEZA**

The Williamson County Banking & Trust Co. is deeply interested in the welfare of the farmers in this county, and we urge a liberal use of LESPEDEZA this year, because we believe it will be to your advantage.

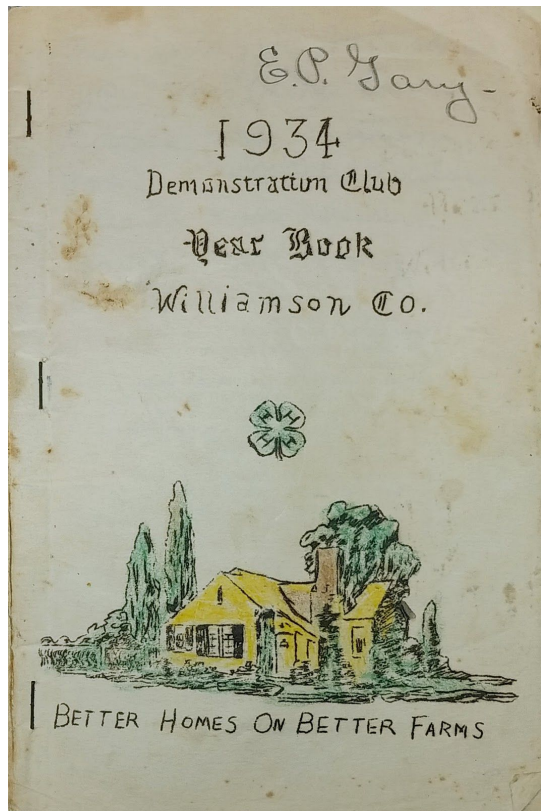
TALK WITH YOUR COUNTY AGENT
Lespedeza Makes Poor Land Good and Good Land Better

**Williamson County
Banking & Trust Company**
Franklin Tennessee

DIRECTORS

Dr. K. S. Howlett	R. V. Akin
J. M. King	J. B. Briggs
J. M. Lizzert, Jr.	Jas. H. Campbell
W. J. Smith	J. F. Eggleston
Oley Walker	J. C. Fox
Douglas Wike	Dr. A. Gibbs

Business leaders, like the Williamson County Banking & Trust Company, had a vested interest in improved agriculture. The bank placed this ad in the *Review-Appeal* (February 14, 1935) encouraging the use of Lespedeza to make "Poor Land Good and Good Land Better." In a 1935 bulletin, the University of Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station recommended *Lespedeza sericea*, a perennial legume, for erosion control and could be grown "on soils too poor for a profitable corn crop."



The Home Demonstration Club at Thompson's Station was founded in 1926 with eighteen members, Elise Gary, president. Meeting in the basement of the Thompson's Station school, these women were committed to better family and rural community life. *Courtesy Elva M. Darby scrapbook.*

Flora & fauna

A conservation easement with the Land Trust for Tennessee and The Civil War Trust restricts the development at Preservation Park. The easement ensures the preservation of the natural, scenic, agricultural, and the open spaces of the park as well as the historic Civil War battleground in part of the park.

The vegetation on Preservation Park property includes a mix of grassland/pasture, deciduous forest, evergreen forest, and mixed forest, all typically found within the region. The forests include Eastern Red Cedars, Tulip Poplars, Sweetgums, Elms, Hackberries, Hickories, Oaks, and Maples, among many others. From an ecological perspective, the variety of vegetation on the property provides a number of valuable ecosystems and ecotones for flora and fauna. It is likely that the entire site was forested before crop cultivations or pastures were created by Native Americans and early European settlers. Much of the forested areas of the site include extensive invasive plant populations such as honeysuckle, privet, and invasive trees. [taken from Master Plan]

Image Asset:

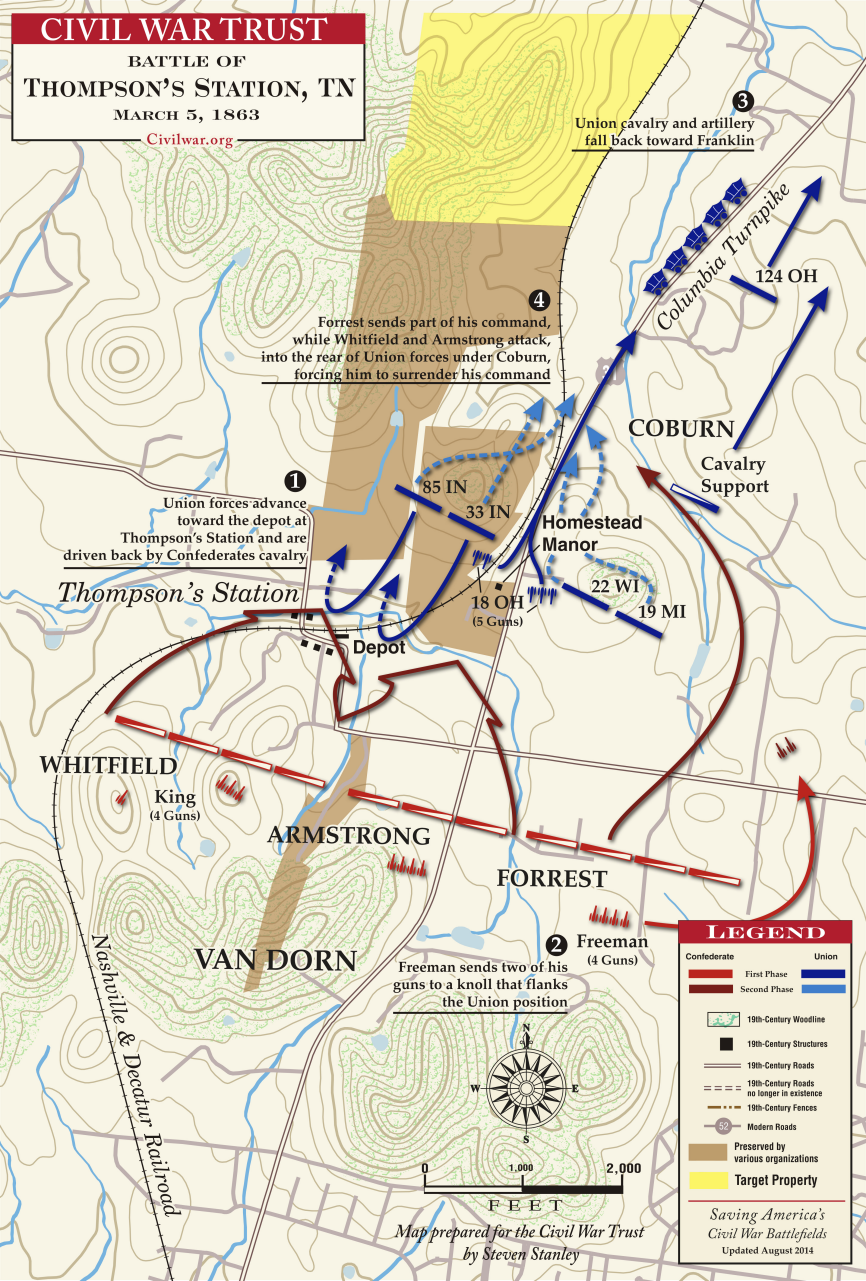
Images of native and invasive plants from master plan

CIVIL WAR TRUST

BATTLE OF THOMPSON'S STATION, TN

MARCH 3, 1863

CivilWar.org



LEGEND

Confederate	Union

Map prepared for the Civil War Trust
by Steven Stanley

Saving America's
Civil War Battlefields
Updated August 2014







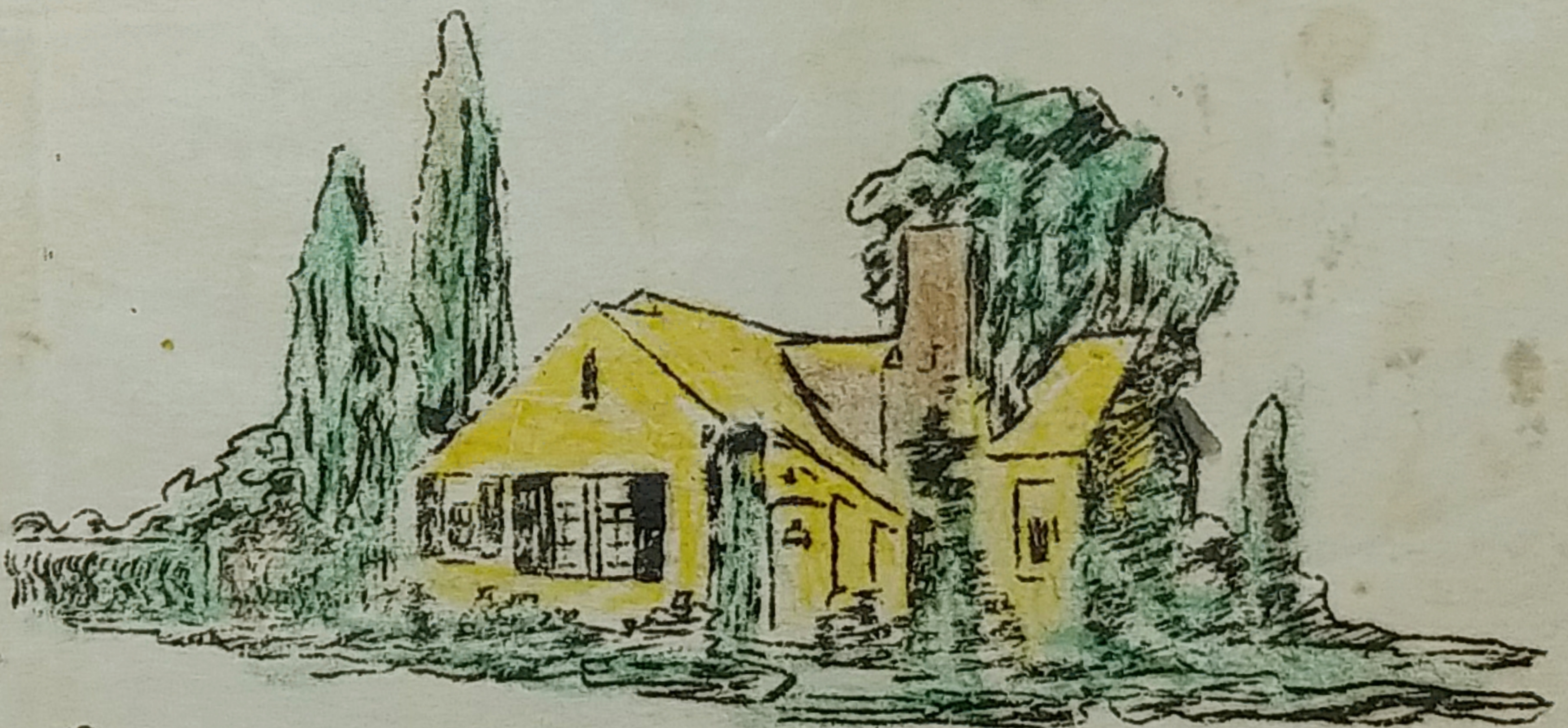
E. P. Gary -

1934

Demonstration Club

Year Book

Williamson Co.



BETTER HOMES ON BETTER FARMS

TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA RAILROAD.



OPEN TO THOMPSON'S STATION.

ON and after Thursday, August 23d, trains will run between Nashville and Thompson's Station, as follows:

MORNING TRAIN.

Leaves Nashville at 6.30 A. M.; arrives at Thompson's at 8 A. M.

RETURNING—Leaves Thompson's at 8.45 A. M.; arrives at Nashville at 10.30 A. M.

EVENING TRAIN.

Leaves Nashville at 3.15 P. M., arrives at Thompson's at 5 P. M.

RETURNING—Leaves Thompson's at 5.15 P. M.; arrive at Nashville at 6.45 P. M.

On Sunday the Morning Train only will be run, leaving Nashville at 7 A. M., and Thompson's at 8 45 A. M.

At Thompson's the Stages of Carter, Thomas and Hough connect with the trains.

Through Tickets for MEMPHIS, WAYNESBORO, JACKSON, TUSCUMBIA, FLORENCE, PULASKI and COLUMBIA, can be procured at the General Stage Office, under the Verandan Hotel.

A. ANDERSON,

R. Eng. and Supt.

aug22

REMOVAL.

1889

1935

For Land's Sake

SOW LESPEDEZA

The Williamson County Banking & Trust Co. is deeply interested in the welfare of the farmers in this county, and we urge a liberal use of LESPEDEZA this year, because we believe it will be to your advantage.

TALK WITH YOUR COUNTY AGENT

Lespedeza Makes Poor Land Good and Good Land Better

Williamson County Banking & Trust Company

Franklin

Tennessee

DIRECTORS

Dr. K. S. Howlett
J. M. King
J. M. Liggett, Jr.
W. J. Smith
Otey Walker
Douglas Wikle

R. V. Akin
J. B. Briggs
Jas. H. Campbell
J. F. Eggleston
J. C. Fox
Dr. A. Gibbs

THOMPSONS STATION

Scale 30 Rods to the Inch

A. C. B.

C. P. Thompson
J. Housley

J. B.
D. T. Thompson

S. G. Mill &
Cotton Gin
H. C. Wilson

Depot

B. C.

Z. M. Drake
Drug Store

W. H. Lavender

Dr. J. D. Ragsdale

Z. M. Drake

R. S. Sh.
D. H.
Store & F.O.
M. E. Montgomery
W. W. Mc Carico
Dr. J. G.
F. H. Bond
K. Bond
K. Bond
P. Carter
J. E. Pipp

W. M.

Rogers Est.

J. B. Wilkins

S. H.

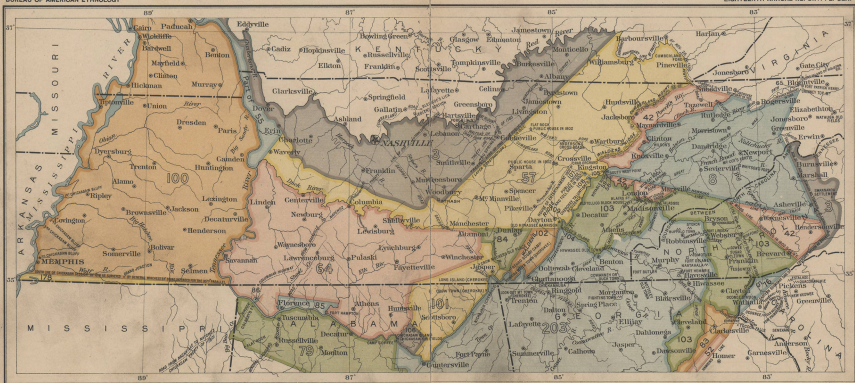
Christian Ch.

M. R. Ch.

J. B. Terrill

M. E. Montgomery

Jas Booher



TENNESSEE AND PORTIONS OF BORDERING STATES

SCALE, 30 MILES TO 1 INCH

Business Directory.

Banks & Wilson, produce.

Core, J. G., physician.

Cotter, Patrick, General Store.

Epps & Wallace, general store.

Epps, Wallace & Kitch, produce.

Montgomery, M. E., Flouring Mill.

Ragsdale, J. D., physician.

Ragsdale & Montgomery, druggists.

Stone & Housley, mnfrs, and flour merchants.

Terrell, J. B., general store, express and station agent.

Wilks, Rev. W. C., (Methodist).

Willson, H. C., general store.