SKETCHES OF SEVIER AND ROBERTSON COUNTIES

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SKETCHES OF SEVIER AND ROBERTSON COUNTIES.

[In 1880 the city of Nashville held a Centennial Exposition. It was decided, as one feature of the Exposition, to exhibit a series of sketches embracing the history of every county in the State. Letters were addressed to prominent citizens in each county, soliciting their co-operation. Although the response was by no means general, yet valuable information was obtained from several of the counties. Some of these county sketches, or histories, found their way into the archives of the Tennessee Historical Society. Among these the sketch of Sevier County has been selected for publication, not only on account of interesting information, but also on account of the letter of the author, Hon. W. L. Duggan, which shows the action of the State Legislature and of the County Court of Sevier.

The sketch of Robertson County, the author of which is unknown, is selected, on account of interesting local information, and especially on account of the sketch which it contains of the *Bell Witch*. This remarkable episode of Tennessee history has well-nigh passed out of mind, and has not found a place in the annals of the State. From 1818 to 1835 the stories of the *Bell Witch* created great excitement in Robertson County, and throughout Middle Tennessee. The reader who may be interested in this remarkable hallucination is referred to a book entitled "An Authenticated History of the Bell Witch," by M. V. Ingram, published at Clarksville, Tenn., by W. P. Titus.

Perhaps no other witchcraft hallucination ever gained currency in the State except the excitement in Fentress County, which occurred about 1837, and led to the only trial for witchcraft in Tennessee. Fortunately, the only trial for witchcraft in the State, although leading to conviction before the Justice of the Peace, resulted in the acquittal of the accused on appeal to the Circuit Court.

These two county sketches are filed in the Archives of the Tennessee Historical Society, marked respectively, Box S1, No. 43, and Box R2, No. 142.]

Nashville, Tenn., April, 1880.

The County Court of Sevier County at its April term 1880, in pursuance of a Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of Tennessee, appointed the undersigned—together with D. W. Howard, Esq., and Dr. J. U. Hammer—to prepare a "succinct History" of Sevier County for the occasion of the Nashville Centennial. I have not had the assistance of Messrs Howard and Hammer in the prep-

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aration of the History, nor have I had an opportunity to examine the early records of the county.

The accompanying history embraces a recital of such important facts as I could obtain from the limited means at my command.

Very Respectfully,

W. L. DUGGAN.

1880.

A Brief History of Sevier County, from its First Settlement and Organization—Embracing a brief reference to the most Important Events—Increase of Population—Mountains—Rivers—Water Powers—Mineral Re—sources—Soil—Climate—Medicinal Springs.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT

of the territory which now forms Sevier County was made on Dumplin Creek a few miles north of French Broad River. This was shortly followed by settlements on Boyd's Creek and at different places on Little Pigeon River.

SEVIER COUNTY WAS ESTABLISHED

by the "Territorial Assembly," in 1794—was taken off of Jefferson—then called Caswell County. It was the tenth county established by the Territorial Government, and was named in honor of General John Sevier, the Governor of the "State of Franklin," and the first Governor of Tennessee.

The county contains 660 square miles, or 442,400 acres, and is bounded: On the North, by Jefferson County; on the East, by Cocke County; on the South, by the North Carolina line; on the West, by Blount and Knox Counties.

POPULATION.

The first census of the County was taken in July, 1795, showing a population of a little more than 3,000. The subsequent censuses exhibit the following increase in population:

In 1800	the	population	was	near 3,400
" 1810	"	"	"	" 4,500
" 1820	"	"	"	" 4,700
" 1830	"	"	"	" 5,700
" 1840	"	"	"	" 6,400
" 1850	"	"	"	" 6,900
" 1860	"	"	"	" 9,100
" 1870	"	"	"	" 11,000
" 1880	"	"	estimated	" 14,000

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SEVIERVILLE, THE COUNTY SEAT,

was located by Commissioners, duly authorized by the Legislature of 1794, at the Confluence of the West and main East Forks of Little Pigeon river. The first officers of the County were Samuel Newell, Chairman of the County Court; Samuel Wear, Clerk County Court; John Lowry, County Solicitor; Ambrose Arther, Sheriff; Thomas Buckingham, Collector. The first State Senator, John Clack; first Representatives, Spencer Clack and Sam'l Newell.

It has been nearly 86 years since the establishment of Sevier County, during which time the solitude of the forest, or the wigwams of the savages, have given way to the enterprise and industry of an energetic people. "The County has been the land of hunters, soldiers and patriots. It has its stations, forts and battle grounds."

Proud associations, coupled with many heroic struggles by her hardy pioneers, cluster around her early history, and her progress from those days of hazardous pioneer life to the present writing has been marked by an honorable and patriotic career. The unceasing toils and steady pursuits of civilized life have transformed this once rugged wilderness into a beautiful and productive agricultural region.

SURFACE, SOIL AND CLIMATE.

Extending from the Holston river on the North, to the State line on the top of the "Smoky Mountain," on the South, the County embraces the northern slope of said mountain and the smaller mountains adjoining, thus affording a variety of soil and a contrariety of surface, producing a delightful diversity of climate. The Southern portion of the County is mountainous and broken; the Northern and Western parts more level and productive. In the Southern part of the County are some of the most delightful and picturesque views to be found anywhere in the State, many of the loftiest peaks being more than a mile in height.

RIVERS AND WATER POWERS.

The three forks of Little Pigeon river, known as "East Fork," "Middle Fork" and "West Fork," have their sources in the mountainous parts of the County, and forming a final junction at Sevierville, flow nearly North to the French Broad river, which also flows through the County. The excellent and valuable water powers on these three forks of Little Pigeon, and on many of the largest

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Creeks, would be sufficient to run the machinery of all the manufactories of the State.

The soil varies from the rich loam on the extensive bottoms on French Broad and Pigeon rivers, to the high and hilly lands which are admirably adapted to the production of fruits, tobacco, grasses and the cereals. Stock grazing is profitable in that part of the County adjoining North Carolina.

IRON ORE

exists in unlimited quantities and of excellent quality in different sections of the County. A Swedish company operated a furnace and "iron works" with much success on the East Fork of Little Pigeon, about the years 1835 to 1840. They finally abandoned the work on account of the cost of transportation. Many of the cooking vessels, kettles, &c., used by the citizens for many years, and many of which are yet good, were made of iron from these works. Also at "Pigeon Forge," on the West Fork, iron was produced for several years in abundance. These "iron banks" and many others throughout the County contain almost inexhaustible beds of iron ore.

THE SILVER MINES

in Greenbrier Cove, in the south-eastern part of the County, have attracted considerable attention for a year or two, and eastern capitalists are negotiating with the owners of the lands for a purchase or lease of the same.

CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.

The County affords some of the most valuable chalybeate springs to be found anywhere in the State. These springs are places of pleasant resort for hundreds during the hot summer months, and they possess effective medicinal properties.

ROBERTSON COUNTY.

Established April, 1796.
Organized July 18, 1796.

Upon the establishment of our State, in 1796, one of the three Counties which had been erected in the Cumberland Country by the Legislature of North Carolina, was called Tennessee. When the Convention appropriated the name of the County and gave it

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to the State, Tennessee County was divided into two distinct counties, one being called Robertson and the other Montgomery. Robertson County was named in honor of Gen. James Robertson, one of the founders of Nashville. It was established by Act of the General Assembly of Tennessee, passed at Knoxville, April, 1796, and is bounded at present as follows: On the north by the State of Kentucky, on the east by Sumner, on the south by Davidson and Cheatham, and on the west by Cheatham and Montgomery Counties, having an area of about 330 square miles.

Robertson County was organized at the house of Jacob McCarty, on Sulphur Fork, 1½ mi., west of Springfield, July 18, 1796, the following named gentlemen being commissioned as Justices of the Peace, to wit:

William Fort, Isaac Philips, William Miles, Benjamin Menees, Bazel Boren, Martin Duncan, John Philips, Zebulon B. Hobart, James Crabtree, Charles Miles and Hugh Henry, who took the several oaths required by law.

William Fort was elected Chairman of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions; Thomas Johnson, Clerk; Hugh Henry, Sheriff; Bazel Boren, Register; Josiah Fort, Trustee; John Philips, Ranger; Isaac Brown, Coroner; and Stephen Boren, Isaac Menees, Daniel McKindley, William Brown, James Crabtree and John Mercer, Constables in and for said County.

Samuel Donelson, Esq., was appointed County Solicitor.

The Court adjourned on the following day to meet at the house of Benjamin McIntosh, October Term, 1796. McIntosh lived north of the site of Springfield about one mile, that is, he is said to have lived there. The Court was held here until April Term, 1798, when it adjourned to meet at the "Town of Springfield," July Term, of the same year.

SPRINGFIELD.

Springfield, the County-seat, was founded in 1798, on a tract of sixty acres of land, donated by Archer Cheatham and Thomas Johnson, Sr., and named for the many springs which broke out on the town site. The town is pleasantly located on the south side of Sulphur Fork of Red River, in a high and rolling, healthy and fertile section, near the geographical center of the County, and about 30 miles north-west from Nashville. The first settlers in Springfield were Archer Cheatham, John Hutchison, Thomas Dickson, Jonathan Ferguson and Thomas Johnson. Col. Cheatham was a

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farmer, hotel keeper, and land speculator. 'Squire Hutchison was a hotel keeper at an early day in the town, but whether he or Cheatham was first, is not now known. He subsequently held sundry offices of trust in the County. Mr. Dickson was a one legged man, and a farmer by occupation. John Ferguson was a hatter, the first in the place. Dr. Levi Noyes was the first physician to locate in Springfield, about 1802. He was succeeded by Dr. Archibald Thomas. The Martin Brothers were the first merchants in the town, beginning business about 1800. James McMeans was the first attorney at this bar, about 1811. Springfield grew very slowly, and as a consequence the educational facilities were meager. The first school was taught here by Avery Clark, about the year 1809. The first postmaster was Nicholas Conrad, who was among the first merchants, at an early date, but the exact time cannot now be ascertained. The Methodists erected the first church in the place, about 1822, and the Rev. William Peters was the first pastor to preach in it. Previous to this the Court house had been occupied by the ministers of all denominations.

Springfield was incorporated in 1853, and Eaton A. Williams elected the first mayor. The first newspaper—the "Cumberland Presbyterian"—published in the County was issued in 1839, Rev. David R. Harris, editor and proprietor. It was a religious paper, devoted to the interests of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and was subsequently removed to Lebanon, Tenn.; thence to Nashville. The first bank—Springfield National Bank—was established in 1872; capital, $60,000; John Woodard, President.

Springfield is directly connected with Nashville and St. Louis by the St. Louis & South-eastern Railroad, constructed in 1857-8, and with other points by its connections.

Springfield has grown but slowly, the construction of the St. L. & S. E. Railroad connecting it with Nashville and St. Louis having but little effect upon its growth. It has never suffered severely from fire, only a few houses having been burned. It is now in its most prosperous period, building up slowly but substantially. Her business men have generally been successful, and the credit of her merchants as good as in most of her sister towns. She has a number of handsome private residences, as well as public buildings.

Springfield has now 4 dry goods stores, 8 grocery stores, 3 drug stores, 1 furniture store, 6 saloons, 2 millinery shops, 1 undertaker, 1 silversmith, 2 blacksmith shops, 1 wagon shop, 2 livery stables, 3

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hotels, 2 shoe and boot shops, 3 saddler and harness shops, 2 steam flour-mills, 1 tobacco warehouse, 4 wholesale whisky houses; 3 schools, with six teachers and about 160 pupils; 3 churches—Methodist, Baptist, and Cumberland Presbyterian; 1 colored school, with 1 teacher and about 50 pupils; 2 colored churches—Methodist and Baptist; 5 preachers, 4 physicians, 12 lawyers; 1 newspaper—Springfield Record; postal, express, and telegraphic facilities; and a population of about 1,000, of which about one-fourth are colored.

Courthouse.—The first Courthouse was a log building, 18x18 feet, covered with boards. It was the "temple of justice" until 1819, when the present Courthouse, an old fashioned brick building, 40x40 feet, with court room below and Sheriff and Clerk's offices above.

Jails.—Robertson County has had three jails, one wooden, one brick, and one stone, the latter very substantial, with nice brick apartments for Jailor.

TURNERSVILLE,

a straggling, dilapidated post village, on Miller's Creek in the western part of the County, 10 miles from Springfield, in a broken and much worn section, was established in the early part of this century, and named for Major John E. Turner, a North Carolinian of Scotch descent. In its earlier days it was a place of some little local importance, having a number of stores, mechanic shops, hotel, saloons, etc., but now it has an old appearance and is evidently on the decline. It has now but one store, a blacksmith shop, school, Methodist Church, 2 physicians, and a population of about 100, of which about one-third are colored.

COOPERTOWN,

a small post village on the Nashville & Clarksville road, 8 miles southwest from Springfield, was established about 1858, and its name suggested by David Nave on account of the cooper shops then in operation here. It is pleasantly located in an undulating, healthy and moderately fertile section, and has a store, some mechanic shops, school house, Christian Church, two physicians, and a population of about 75 inhabitants.

BARREN PLAINS,

a post village at the crossing of the Gallatin and Hopkinsville and Springfield and Russellville roads, about — miles north from

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Springfield, was established in 1825 by "Buckeye" Mason, its name having been suggested because the land was then barren of timber. It has now two stores, a family grocery, some mechanic shops, school, Masonic hall, two physicians, & about 60 inhabitants. It was about six miles north of this place, just beyond the Kentucky line, that the duel by Andrew Jackson and —— Dickinson was fought, 18—.

BLACKJACK,

a post village on the Franklin and Springfield road, 11 miles northeast from the latter town, was established about 1859, and took its name from the blackjack timber in which it was located. It is situated in a pleasant agricultural district, and has three stores, one grocery, 1 saloon, some mechanic shops, schoolhouse, church, 1 physician, & about 100 inhabitants.

VILLAGES OF ROBERTSON COUNTY.

Cross Plains, a post village on the South Fork of Red River, 11 miles east from Springfield, and about three-fourths of a mile east of the site of "Kilgore's Station," was founded about the year 1812, and took its name from the crossing of the Nashville and Russellville and the Gallatin and Hopkinsville roads, where it is located. It is pleasantly situated on an elevated and rolling plain between the Middle and South Forks of Red River, on land formerly belonging to James Yates, who was the first merchant in the place. It has always been a live village, in the midst of a thriving community, noted for its health and morality. It has now 5 dry goods and grocery stores, 2 drug stores, 1 saloon, 1 blacksmith, 1 wagon, 1 tailor, 1 saddle and harness and 1 boot and shoe shop, 1 hotel; 1 school—Stonewall College; 1 church—Cumberland Presbyterian; 1 Masonic and Odd Fellows' hall, 1 steam saw and grist mill, a number of handsome cottage residences, and a population of about 150, of which about one-third are colored.

Cedar Hill, a post village on the St. L. & S. E. Railroad, 7 miles north of west from Springfield, was established on the land of J. W. Gooch, in 1857, and took its name from the few cedars near by on the highest elevation between Nashville & Guthrie. It is delightfully located in a healthy, fertile and slightly undulating section of the County, surrounded by an intelligent and religious community. The village has now 2 dry goods stores, 3 grocery stores, 1 drug store, some mechanic shops, 1 steam flouring mill, school,

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a Methodist Church, Masonic Hall, hotel, 2 large tobacco houses, and a population of about 100, of which about one-tenth are colored.

Adam's Station, a post village on the St. L. & S. E. Railroad, 12 miles north-west from Springfield, was founded in 1859, on the lands of Jas. M. Adams for whom the place was named. It is pleasantly located in a broken, healthy and fertile section, on the south side of Red River, and is the largest village in the County. Thomas J. Adams & B. O. Crenshaw, J. M. Adams & Jas. Chambers, were the first merchants; F. J. Adams, first postmaster; M. G. Alexander, the first school teacher; the Methodists erected the first church in 1870, and Rev. John H. Reynolds was the first pastor. Dr. P. A. Williams was the first physician to locate here, about 1863. It was incorporated in 1870, and W. C. Tomerlin elected mayor. The place has grown slowly, having been pretty well destroyed in the late Civil War. It has now 3 dry goods stores, 2 groceries, 2 drug stores, 2 saloons, some mechanic shops, good school; 2 churches —Methodist and Baptist; hotel, steam grist mill, 2 tobacco factories, 3 preachers, 3 physicians, 1 lawyer, & about 250 inhabitants, of which about one-fifth are colored.

Greenbrier and *Sadlersville*, also *Ridge Top*, are stations on the St. L. & S. E. Railroad in this County.

BEGINNINGS—IMPROVEMENTS.

Mill.—The first water mill, in Robertson County, was built on Sulphur Fork by Maj. Charles Miles, about 1793.

School.—The first school in this County was taught by Robert Black, on Sulphur Fork, near Capt. Isaac Dortch's, about the year 1798. Previous to this time the young idea had been taught how to shoot in private families; that is, where it was taught at all.

Church.—The first church erected in the County was a Primitive Baptist Church, called "Grammer's Meeting House," on Sulphur Fork, about 1790, and the Rev. Mr. Grammer & Rev. Nathan Arnett, it is thought, were the first pastors. Preaching had been had at the cabins of the pioneers by ministers of various denominations before as well as after this.

Camp Ground.—The first camp ground, it is thought by some, was Mount Zion, on Carr's Creek, established about 1800. Others are of the opinion that the Ridge Camp Ground was the first, and that it was built much about the same time, the Revs. Finis Ewing, Daniel McGready and others being the officiating ministers.

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Cotton Gin.—The first cotton gin in Robertson County was built, it is thought, by James McFarland, on Brush Creek, about 1802-'5.

Distillery.—The first distillery, it is thought, was built by Jonathan Darden, on Sulphur Fork, about 1800. It was a small affair, but the County has long since become noted for its many distilleries & for its excellent whiskey. In fact, Old Robertson is quite as familiar a brand as Old Bourbon, in the marts of trade. Daniel Holman built the first distillery.

"THE BELL WITCH."

(See 1 Sam. 28: 15-19.)

This mysterious, invisible, loquacious *something* is said to have manifested itself at the house of John Bell and vicinity, on Red River, in the north-western part of this County, in the year 1818, and to have continued its marvelous and unwelcome visitations until the death of Mr. Bell and his wife, the former occurring in 1822, and the latter in 1825. The story of the witch of Endor, as related in the Scriptures, did not create much more excitement than did the "witch" at Bell's. So great was the excitement, that people came from at least a half dozen States to see, or rather to hear, the sayings of this mysterious being. It would be impossible to relate a moiety of what it is reported to have said. Indeed, some of its language was so profane and vulgar, as to preclude its recital here.

Its first manifestations were made by pulling off the bed clothes and scratching on the bed tick; to pull the daubing out of the cracks of the house and sprinkling it in the middle of the floor. Then it told in a low tone that it was a deceased spirit, and that it had come to have some skull bones which had been taken from a mound near by on the river bluff, and that it would not cease its visits until the skulls were returned to their resting places. Although the skulls had been carefully deposited in their original graves, yet the witch came again. When asked why it had come again, it said: To let the family know where it had, when in the flesh, deposited a quantity of gold. Search was made for the gold at the place designated, but was not found, though diligent search was made. It would slap and spank a twelve year old girl, a daughter of Mr. Bell, so much so that the signs of the fingers were made on the flesh of the girl. The girl being sent off to avoid the chastising, the witch followed her and took her from between a man and his wife, rolling them off. It not only spoke audibly several different languages,

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but would touch hands with those of the neighborhood whom it deemed honorable. It would tell what had transpired in the vicinity for a distance of seven or more miles round, narrating the intimacies of men and their wives, as well as disclosing the intrigues of men and women who deemed their *liaisons* unknown to any but themselves. It would unlock the door of the dwelling, although the key was in the lock, and held by a stout man, without turning the key. In making its approach it would first be heard striking the roof of the house with a brush or limb of a tree; then it would be heard to drop as it were from the rafters to the second floor, and then on the first, making as loud a noise as would any large man. It would talk and laugh, making ludicrous remarks about the "damned fools who had come to see the witch." It would call the dogs and set them upon passers-by, to the great annoyance of the family as well as the neighbors. It would even take the tobacco out of the mouth of Mr. Bell, and put therein an old, much used pipe stem; at least, he thought it was there, though his friends could see nothing of the kind. It would call Mrs. Bell by her given name; would drop grapes and hazelnuts into her hand; would crack the nuts, place the kernel in her hand, and drop the wet hulls upon the floor, looking as if they had been moistened by being cracked in the mouth. And all the time the witch was invisible. It has been known to take a cup of coffee out of Mrs. Bell's hand, turn it up as if drinking from it, when the coffee would disappear, the cup be replaced, without any having fallen upon the floor. At times, when the family and friends would be sitting round the fire, nuts and acorns would fall on the hearth, coming apparently from the flue of the chimney, but when any one would endeavor to pick them up, they could not be found. On one occasion a large dinner pot rolled down and out into the floor, and then disappeared, leaving not a greasy spot. At one time a vial of poison was found in the flue of the chimney, and being taken down, Dr. George B. Hopson gave one drop to a cat, causing its death in seven seconds. The witch claimed to have put the poison there for the purpose of killing Mr. Bell. Being asked how it was going to administer the poison, it said by pouring it into the dinner pot. It is remarkable that, although he enjoyed good health up to the time of this event, Mr. Bell died within —— days after the vial was found, being in a stupor at the time of his death. From this time the people visited the house less frequently, although the witch would now and then

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be heard. After Mrs. Bell's death, the house was unoccupied, no one being willing to live in it. It was not long afterward pulled down and the logs and other material removed. The barns, stables, and all other buildings were likewise removed, and the well filled up, leaving the apple orchard and a sycamore tree, which stood in the yard, to mark the spot where the Bell family once lived.

William Hawkins, who came to see it, entered the house when it was literally full of people. As he came, the witch said: "There comes Bill Hawkins, who killed a horse to-day!" It was true that he had that evening shot an old horse that had annoyed him for a long time by jumping into his fields, as Mr. Hawkins acknowledged at the time.

The foregoing is related by F. R. Miles, William Pride, W. J. Gooch, Ben. B. Batts, and many others.

The witch could bark and lap like a dog, buzz like a swarm of bees, cackle like chickens, crow like a rooster, gobble and yelp like a turkey, quack like a duck, and imitate other animals. It could sing, preach and pray, and do many things to astonish the bystanders. One might rest an open penknife on his knee, point up, and the witch would slap down on the knee making a noise audible anywhere in the room. A neighbor woman, known to a number of living witnesses, having spoken in a crabbed, disrespectful manner of the said witch, it became indignant toward her, and proceeded to punish her by simply turning her dress over her head, twisting the same about as one would twist a meal or corn sack, and apparently holding it with one hand, while it administered a severe chastisement by slapping her with the other open hand. The black marks were visible upon her arms and shoulders several days afterward. This was told me by a gentleman of well known veracity, who saw the marks himself.

Another remarkable attribute of the witch was that it could be at three or more places, distant from each other two miles or more, at the same time, as evidenced by talking and otherwise making a noise by scratching on the beds or pulling off the coverlets or quilts. It shook hands with several men, upon one occasion, when one of the men made an effort to hold the hand of the witch and called for a light. Before the light could be brought the witch wrenched its hand from the man. The witch was angry at this act of impertinence and cursed and abused the man severely, and never afterwards had any confidence in him. The man said he could feel the

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hand of the witch in his, but could neither see nor feel any arm round or about it. It has been known to throw rocks at people, to appear as a bear, rabbit and black dog, and in sundry other forms and characters.

It called itself by three different names; to wit, "Three Waters," "Tynaperty," and "Black Dog." It also claimed that it was one of seven spirits, only three of whose names were given, as above.

Whatever may be thought of this remarkable nondescript, spirit, apparition, or whatever people may choose to call it, it certainly created no little excitement, not only in the County of Robertson, but in at least a half dozen States. We give the statements as we received them for what they are worth, but have no comments to make. The half has not been told; indeed, a volume might be written concerning this remarkable "Bell witch."

SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES—1796-1880.

Senators—Henry Frey, Edward S. Cheatham, Andrew E. Garner, Joseph C. Stark, Dr. Hugh Robinson, John A. Cheatham, John S. Hart.

Representatives—John Young, Richard Cheatham, Richard R. P. Powell, David West, John Woodard, Anderson Cheatham, William C. Conrad, Austin Barbee, Matthew Powell, William Seal, W. W. Pepper, Wiley Woodard, E. A. Fort, Sylvanus Benton, George A. Washington, B. M. Cheatham, J. A. Bell, John S. Hart, William Moore (F.), James Norfleet, James M. Malloy, Thomas Menees, David D. Holman, Joseph Washington, John Woodard, W. R. Sadler.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Cumberland Presbyterian was established in 1839, with Rev. D. R. Harris as editor and proprietor, and ran about two years.

The Springfield Spy began in 1846. Grant & Ligon were editors and proprietors. It ran two years.

The Robertson Backwoodsman was first published by Kirk & McNelly in 1848. It was changed to the Springfield Intelligencer in 1849. In February, 1852, H. H. Kirk sold the paper to George H. McNelly, and about August, 1853, McNelly sold to James L. Davis, who in 1854 changed the name to the Dollar Weekly American, which was discontinued in the year 1855.

In the year 1856 a stock company bought the office, placed Mason & Shropshire on the staff, and ran the Robertson Democrat for four or five months, when it went under.

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In 1859 Messrs. G. W. Davis & Co. started the Springfield Spectator (Whig), which was continued until 1862, when Morgan passed through and printed his Vidette with the material. In a few days thereafter a Federal force came through and heaved the type and fixtures out of a two-story window and broke the press to atoms.

In 1866 M. V. Ingram & Co. started a little paper, the Robertson Register, with Archie Thomas as editor and one of the proprietors, who in a few months, however, sold his interest to M. V. Ingram, who ran the Register until October 23, 1868, when he moved it to Clarksville and changed its name to the Clarksville Tobacco Leaf.

On April 16, 1869, Archie Thomas and Richard F. Thomas established the Springfield Record under the firm name of Thomas Brothers, and it is now in its tenth volume. It is Democratic. The senior member of this firm is one among the oldest of the craft in Tennessee. He entered as an apprentice in the office of the Springfield Intelligencer in October, 1850.

The firm of Thomas Brothers, in 1878, built a fine brick office two stories high on Main street. It is an ornament to the town, being 22x60 feet. It has splendid business rooms on the first floor.

SHERIFFS—1796-1880.

Hugh Henry, two years—1796-1798; James Menees, Jr., six years—1798-1804; John B. Cheatham, six years—1804-1810; John Howell, two years—1810-1812; Anderson Cheatham, eight years—1812-1820; Henry Frey, four years—1820-1824; Benjamin Kirby, two years—1824-1826; Washington Ryburn, two years—1826-1828; Richard R. P. Powell, six years—1828-1834; Josiah W. Hicks, six years—1834-1840; Green Benton, six years—1840-1846; Robert H. Murphy, six years—1846-1852; Alfred Pike, six years—1852-1858; Augustus Randolph, two years—1858-1860; Alfred Pike, five years—1860-1865; Marcus L. Woodard, three years—1865-1868; Benjamin H. Boone, eight years—1868-1876; James S. Jones, —— years—1876-18—.

PIONEERS FROM VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SOUTH CAROLINA—1789-1795.

On Red River: William Johnson, Elias Fort and sons—Rev. Sugg Fort and brother, Josiah Fort; Daniel Holman, John Phipps, Charles and Thomas Kilgore, James Yates, George Bigbee, David and Hugh Henry, Samuel Mason, Augustin Cook, John Bell, Rev. Thomas Plasters.

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On Sulphur Fork: Henry, John, and James Gardner; Isaac Dortch; Carr, Holland, and Jonathan Darden; John Hutchison; Col. Archer Cheatham and his brothers, John and Anderson; John Crane, William and Jeremiah Batts, Charles and William Miles, James Norfleet, Elias Fort, Archelaus Mahan, Nathan Clark, John Couts, James Appleton, David and James Jones, Dr. Richard Nuckolls, Benjamin Porter, Patrick Patterson, Martin Walton, Robert Kerr.

On Caleb's Creek: Caleb Winters, Joseph Washington, Azariah Dunn, Henry Ayres, George Murphy, Rev. William Carter, George Williams, Thomas Farmer, David J. Justice.

On Beaver Dam Creek: Thomas Woodard, Arthur Pitt, John Chambers, James Owens, Joseph Winfield, William Benson, John Krisle, John Draughon, Martin Walton, Meredith Walton, Thomas Baird, Waddy Stark.

On Carr's Creek: Michael Fiser, Matthew Day, James Connell, Jacob Binkley, James Culberson, Jacob Fiser; Henry Johnson, grandfather of Hon. Cave Johnson and William and John Huddleston; Henry Johnson, son of Hon. Cave Johnson.

On Brown's Fork: Henry Frey, Jacob Binkley, Henry Childress, Samuel and William Crockett, Patrick and Thomas Martin.

On Elk Fork: William Fort, James Mitchell, David Smith, Andrew Shanklin, Joseph Wimberly.

On Miller's Creek: Robert Head, Richard James, John Carr, James Bryan, Nicholas Conrad, Jesse Martin, Rev. John Lemaster, James Elliott, Samuel Walker.

On Brush Creek: Col. Benjamin Elliott, Benjamin Jordan, Giles and William Connell, James Atkins, John Stephenson, Mark Noble, Frank Grimes, Matthew Luter, Sr., Matthew Luter, Jr., John and James Yoes.

On Sycamore Creek: Hardy Bryan, James Ventriss, Anthony Hinkle, Shadrick Rawls, Lawrence Clinard.

On Spring Creek: Rev. Joseph Dorris, who built the first shingle-roofed house in the county; Daniel Hysmith.

On Battle Creek: James Jamison, Elisha Pilant, Elisha Bellamy.

On Buzzard Creek: Reuben Rose, William Mason, Joseph Perry, Howell Sellars.

On Wartrace Creek: James Bell, Matthew Rose, John McIntosh, John Chowining.

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The first settlement made in what is now Robertson County was at Kilgore's Station, in 1779.

We learn that Thomas Kilgore was one of the first settlers in what is now Robertson County. In 1779 he, in company with Moses Mauldon, Ambrose Mauldon, Samuel Mason, Josiah Hawkins, and others, built a fort one mile west of where the village of Cross Plains, in this county, is situated, and called it "Kilgore's Station." Thomas Kilgore lived to be one hundred and eleven years old. He was never known to ride, except one time, always preferring to walk. He never took any medicines until just before his death.

The first settlement made in what is now Robertson County was on Red River, just below where the St. Louis and Southeastern Railroad bridge crosses said stream, by William Johnson, from North Carolina, in 1787. Soon after, Charles Miles, from South Carolina, built a blockhouse near the Sulphur Fork of Red River. Other settlements were made at the mouth of Sulphur Fork, then called "Richland Creek," by James Stewart and William Fort, about 1790. In the following year Kilgore's Station was established by Thomas Kilgore.

THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT, 1810.

"At a Circuit Court begun and held for the County of Robertson, at the Court House in the town of Springfield on the second Monday in April, 1810, being the 9th day of said month; agreeably to an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, passed at Knoxville on the 16th day of November, 1809, entitled 'An Act to establish Circuit Courts and a Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals.' Present the Honorable Parry W. Humphreys, Esq., Judge of the Fifth Circuit of said State of Tennessee."

Thomas Johnson was elected Clerk of said court; George W. L. Marr, Solicitor General.

The first Chancery Court was held in Springfield on Monday, April 1, 1844; Terry H. Cohal, Chancellor, and Edwin M. Reynolds, Clerk and Master.

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