

A HISTORY
OF
HICKMAN COUNTY
TENNESSEE

BY
W. JEROME D. SPENCE AND
DAVID L. SPENCE

*"Some said, Print it; others said, Not so;
Some said, It might do good; others said, No."*

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buried in an imperfect manner the remains of Hickman. Later a party of explorers found his bones and interred them. When Allan Walker laid his land warrant here in 1815, he found the grave of Hickman, and marked it by leaving a hackberry tree at one end of the grave, and a poplar at the other. So to-day one may visit and look upon the spot where rest the remains of the man whose name the county bears.

William Satterfield lived on Defeated Creek in 1832, and erected a mill near where Reeves Pace now lives. He sold to Robert Griner, Jr. Satterfield removed to Missouri with his son-in-law, Elisha Dotson, in 1840.

Allan Walker, who entered the land east of and adjoining Defeated Creek, added to the original amount of lands until he owned about 900 acres of valuable lands on both sides of the river. He established Walker's Ferry, one mile above Centerville. He reared a large family, which became prominent in the development of the county. His sons were: Joel, William, Allan, James, Pleasant, and Elijah. Dr. Joel Walker went to Williamson County, where he became prominent in business and political circles. Pleasant Walker represented Hickman County several terms in the Legislature, and was sheriff of the county four years. Elijah Walker became one of the best judges that ever presided in a Tennessee courthouse. He was a good judge of law—not an eloquent speaker, but a profound thinker. He was honest in his deci-

erals, after a short resistance, retreated rapidly in the direction of Nashville. Later the courthouse was burned by order of Capt. Henon Cross to prevent it being further used as a fort by the Federals, who had been operating in Hickman County from Centerville as a base. They had made portholes in the walls and had converted it into a fort, impervious to an attack from small arms. During the same year the Perry County Jayhawkers, under Capt. John Taylor, burned the business portion of the town, including a large number of private residences. They left the town in ruins, a smoking mass of coals and ashes over which Desolation reigned supreme.

In 1828, Ashley Hickman and his son-in-law, James Wofford, lived at the head spring of Indian Creek, three miles south of Centerville. They came from North Carolina in 1815 with Allan Walker, and preferred the healthy location at the spring to the cane-covered bottoms of Duck River, upon which they could have as easily placed their land warrants. Below Hickman, on the creek, was George Lovelace, who soon after erected a mill. He was the father of Lee Lovelace, who was a gunsmith, this being a very important trade in the early days. Peter Lovelace, another son, had but one eye, but was a fine marksman, and could see a bullet hole sixty yards. He often waged his money upon his skill as a marksman.

Tradition weaves around the name of Indian Creek a beautiful story of love, romance, and tragedy. It is said that before the beginning of the present cen-

was to continue in possession of not more than 160 acres until these lands were finally disposed of by the United States. William Beakley, who had established a tannery (location not given), and Robert Wright, who had built a mill "on Cane Creek," were given the same privileges. Robert E. C. Dougherty, of Carroll County, was allowed to lay off a town on his lands. This town was to be named "Carrollton." Dougherty, after his election as surveyor general, had removed from Lick Creek to West Tennessee.

The Eighteenth General Assembly met at Nashville on September 21, 1829. Dr. Joel Walker, Senator from the counties of Hickman, Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, and Perry, was elected speaker of the Senate without a dissenting vote. This was just five months after Hall, by virtue of his holding this office, had become Governor, and the fact that they might be selecting a Governor of Tennessee was plainly before the Senators when they voted unanimously for Hickman County's distinguished citizen. Son of the pioneer, Allan Walker, Joel Walker was the first and only Hickman Countian who was ever speaker of the Senate. A brother, Pleasant Walker, was for four years the sheriff of Hickman County, and relinquished this office for that of Representative, which he filled for five consecutive terms, he being the only man whom Hickman Countians ever so honored. Another brother was that legal giant—a great lawyer among great lawyers—Elijah Walker, who was for fifteen years a circuit judge. In the House of Representa-



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[WALKER-L] WALKERs, Hickman Co., TN

Brenda King Finch 10/3/1998, 8:20:46 AM

Hello Walker researchers:

I am posting the following information to the list with the hope that someone may benefit from it. Sorry, I don't know what the numbers in parentheses refer to. I don't know if any of these Walkers are mine, with the possible exception of Richard Walker, Lt. in Militia, 1813.
Brenda

FAMILY RECORDS FROM SPENCES HISTORY OF HICKMAN CO., TENNESSEE,
Abstracted & arranged by Kate Derryberry Leeper

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WALKER, A. (433) Magistrate in 1842

WALKER, ALLAN (59) Laid his land warrant on land along Defeated Creek, nr. The future site of Centerville, in 1815; established Walkers Ferry one mile up the river from Centerville; his sons were: Joel, William, Allan Jr., James, Pleasant, and Elijah.

WALKER, ANDREW (231-444) Lt in militia, 1828; lived at Vernon.

WALKER, D.A. (446-447) Capt. In militia, 1834, Col. 1844.

WALKER, DAVID A. (446) Major in militia, 1836, Col. 1843.

WALKER, DAVID (278) son of James Walker of 9th dist., he taught school at Liberty

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WALKER, ELIAS R. (442) Capt. In militia, 1817

WALKER, ELIJAH (59-72-443) Son of Allan, Sr. he was one of Centervilles first lawyers; was Capt. In militia, 1822; Judge of the Circuit Court from 1849 to 1861, and again from 1870 to 1873.

WALKER, ELISHA (441) Ensign in militia, 1812, Lt. 1814

WALKER, FRANCES (147) Came to Tenn. from Va. With her husband, Samuel Alderson Baker; their children were: John, James P., Thomas, William, Samuel Giles, and Alice Baker.

WALKER, J.B. (146) In 1900 and for many years Cashier of bank in Centerville, later President, formerly a merchant of Shady Grove; son of James of the 9th dist.

WALKER, JAMES (272-275) Early settler of 9th dist., SOLDIER OF THE MEXICAN WAR, Whitfields Company the Hickory Guards, his wife was a dau. of John Cooper; their children were: Dr. William L., John T., David N., James B., and Mattie.

WALKER, DR. JOEL (59-76-385) son of Allan, Sr.; member of the Commission appointed by Gen. Assembly of 1819 to run the lines of Hickman Co. and establish a point whereon to build the County Seat; he was first Postmaster of Centerville, 1824; Surgeon in the militia, 1820; he moved to Williamson Co., and served as State Senator in 1829; first native of Hickman County to be elected Speaker of the State Senate.

WALKER, JOHN (440) Lt. In militia, 1809.

WALKER, JOHN T. (283-284) Son of James, he was a teacher and merchant of 9th dist.; also served as Deputy Sheriff; md. A Miss Claggett of Centerville; moved to West Tenn. where he was a merchant and banker.

WALKER, LEON (361) b. May 15, 1832; son of William; he lived for several yrs. in Texas; he represented Hickman, Perry, and Lewis Counties in the State Legislature, 1875; died in Hickman.

WALKER, PLEASANT (58-220-451) son of Allan, Sr. his wife was a dau. of Stuart Warren; he was Sheriff 1832-36; was County Judge & member of the Tenn. Legislature from 1837 to 1847.

WALKER, RICHARD (441) Lt. In militia, 1813

WALKER, SAMUEL (240) Settled on Sugar Creek in 8th dist., as early as 1807.

WALKER, SYLVANUS (308) Lived near Aetna in 1825

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WALKER, THOMAS B. (246-283) At one time was a merchant at Shady Grove, had a store at Whitfield in 1895-1900; he was a cousin of John T. and J. B. Walker.

WALKER, THOMAS J. (361) b. April 19, 1838; was a soldier in Company I, 42nd Tenn. Infantry, Confederate Army, wounded at Shiloh and lost an arm at Murfreesboro the same yr.; his wife was Sarah C. Gray, b. Sept. 21, 1841, dau. of Sherrod Gray of Grays Bend. In 1874 he was elected Register of Hickman and held office for 8 yrs.

WALKER, DR. WILLIAM L. (284) son of James of the 9th dist., a member of Co. I., Tenth Tenn. Cavalry, Confederate Army; in 1897 he was a member of the Tenn. Legislature.

WALKER, WILLIAM (204) Committed suicide at the age of 80, on Big Spring Creek.

WALKER, WILLIAM (359-360) b. Apr. 8, 1806 in Northumberland Co., Va., son of Thomas; he md. Matilda Caroline Anderson who was b. Nov. 7, 1813; their children were: Thomas J. Walker (above) Leon Walker, (above) and a dau. who married Dr. Andrew Norris of Centerville; perhaps others.
