

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

October 2016

201 Locust Street

McMinnville, Tennessee



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Stones River Battlefield, Oaklands, Evergreen Cemetery

WCGA members began the tour meeting at the Rutherford County Courthouse with our tour guides Robert & Barbara Brandon Bates.





Peyton Jones and Allen Jacobs on East Main Street



Print of Morgan's Wedding

Next we took a 3.5 mile drive to Stones River Battlefield with a short stop outside the park to view Warren County troop positions prior to the battle, 16th Tenn., Col. John H. Savage and 84th Tenn., Col. S. S. Stanton. Toured Stones River Battlefield with stops at Hell's Half Acre, Slaughter Pen and Cotton Field.



The Opposing Armies on the Eve of Battle Map



Eve of Battle

On December 30, after Rosecrans's Union army arrived at Murfreesboro, troops occupied this area along McFadden's Lane. Soldiers struggled to sleep in the freezing mud without campfires, knowing a major battle was imminent. For thousands, that night would be their last.



Slaughter Pen

Union soldiers fiercely defended their position here. Confederates launched attack after failed attack, causing heavy losses to both sides. Bodies piled up in the rocks, and blood soaked the ground. Union soldiers retreated, but the

delay gave their army time to form a new line along the Nashville Pike.



Cotton Field

On December 31 Union troops established a defensive line along the Nashville Pike. Pursuing Confederates entering the cotton field were greeted by cannon fire. A Texan recalled, "the artillery opened up on us...and it seemed that the heavens and the earth were coming together."

At dark, both sides dug in for the night. Rosecrans's army had been pushed back three miles but the Confederates had failed to capture the pike.

Defending Nashville Pike

Thousands of retreating Union troops burst from the cedars in front of these cannon, followed by Confederates. The Chicago Board of Trade Battery sprang to action as the Pioneer Brigade poured volley after volley into the gray ranks. Canister charges forced the Confederates back of the cedars.

Round Forest

This was the only Union position that held throughout the first day. Artillery and infantry halted the first attack at 10 am and beat back three more as the day wore on. By dusk, the fields of Hell's Half Acre were covered with Confederate dead and wounded.



Anchoring the Union Line - Hazen's Brigade

The Hazen Brigade Monument

Colonel William Hazen's men were the only Union soldiers who didn't retreat during the fighting on December 31. They repelled attacks so horrible that soldiers and the place Hell's Half Acre. Over 400 of Hazen's troops fell in the battle, and the survivors didn't want the world to forget. Hazen's men built this monument in 1863. It is one of the oldest Civil War memorials (*below*)



After the war, 11th US Colored infantry soldiers, including William Holland (*tombstone above, buried on his own property*) and other formerly enslaved people, started a new life in the area around the national cemetery. They built homes, a school, churches, and a store. Their community, named Cemetery, endured until 1927 when creation of the national battlefield park uprooted many residents, beginning a period of decline.



Source: Stones River

McFadden Farm

Union soldiers hid behind stone and rail breastworks as men fled across the river chased by Confederates. Union cannon firing from above McFadden's Ford halted the Confederates with shot, shell, and canister, killing and wounding over 1,800 men in less than an hour. This was the battle's final action.

McFadden Cemetery

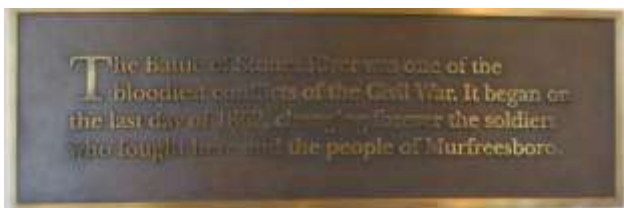


Stones River National Cemetery

After the battle most Union and Confederate dead were quickly buried on the field. In 1865 soldiers of the 111th US Colored Infantry began the grim job of reburying Union dead in the new Stones River National Cemetery. Each mound in the 1866 photo (*below*) is the grave of a newly buried soldier. Over 6,100 Union soldiers are buried here, 2,500 of them unknown.



Source: Cemetery / National Archives and Records Adm. (Above)



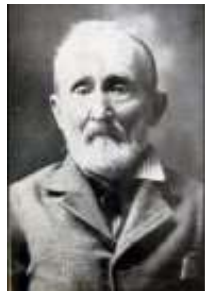
Ranger Lewis talking to the group.



Warren County Troops at the Battle of Stones River Article by Robert 'Bob' Bates



Col Benjamin J Hill



Col John H Savage

Warren County raised two regiments in 1861 and both were engaged in ferocious fighting at the Battle of Stones River on the outskirts of Murfreesborough. The casualty percentage at the Battle of Stones River was second only to the Battle of Gettysburg in all the major engagements in the Civil War.

The 5th Tennessee Infantry Regiment was led by Colonel Benjamin J. Hill who was affectionately known to his men as "The Lion of Ben Lomond". Colonel Hill's regiment was assigned to 29 year old Brigadier General Lucius E. Polk's 1st Brigade in Cleburne's 2nd Division. It can be difficult to retrace troop movements of the 5th at Stones River due to massive retail land development in the area. (Stones River National Battlefield covers only 18% of the conflict). On the eve of battle, the 5th was in reserve on the Confederate left near Franklin Road and was ordered into action at 8:00 am to fill a gap in the lines. The Confederate left enjoyed much success as they swept the panic-stricken Federals about 2 miles north and northeast until the Confederates were forced to rest due to the rugged terrain that impaired movement and low ammunition. This delay gave the Federals time to re-form their lines west of the current Visitors Center and along the Nashville Pike. The Federals held their lines for the remainder of the battle and the 5th reported 25 casualties at the Battle of Stones River.

The 16th Tennessee Infantry Regiment was led by Colonel John H. Savage and was assigned to Brigadier General Daniel S. Donelson's 1st

Brigade in Cheatham's 1st Division. On the eve of the battle, the 16th was in reserve near Bragg's Headquarters on the Nashville Pike. Today, it's easy to trace the footsteps of the 16th Regiment as the current Old Nashville Highway and Railroad are in the exact location as the Nashville Pike and Railroad of 1862.

On December 31st at 9:00 am, the 16th was ordered to advance due north along the Nashville Pike in support of Mississippi troops under Brigadier General James Chalmers. The Mississippians were encountering heavy resistance from Federal infantry and artillery concentrated in a small elevated copse of cedar trees near the railroad referred to by locals as the "Round Forest". At 9:30 am, Chalmers was knocked unconscious by a shell fragment and the leaderless Mississippians fell back to their rifle pits in disorder and confusion. At 10:00 am the 16th charged straddling the railroad where they struck the Federal Line and fierce resistance. Colonel Savage coaxed his men another 50 yards before the intensity of the Federal fire forced them to the ground. This area became known as "Hell's Half Acre". Captain J.J. Womack recalled, "The space between the two lines was now an unobstructed plane of about 100 yards, we lying and shooting, and they standing." The 16th's ranks were being badly thinned and among the dead were Colonel John Savage's brother, Lieutenant Colonel L.N. Savage, and Captain D.C. Spurlock who was killed after charging less than 15 yards. Spurlock's parents were staying at a Murfreesborough hotel on the day of the battle and returned to McMinnville with his body wrapped in a blanket. Captain Womack watched his brother, J.B., fall badly wounded, and then was knocked unconscious and had his right arm shattered by a mini ball. As standing to retreat was more dangerous than staying on the ground, Savage and his men lay for 3 hours until being relieved by Dan Adam's brigade. The 16th entered the Battle of Stones River with 400 men and left with 207 casualties.

Key Commanders



Braxton Bragg, Confederate Commander, was "a puzzling mixture of competence and ineptness." He gained distinction in the US-Mexican War.

Bragg stayed in command despite his subordinates' criticism of his withdrawal from Murfreesboro. He defeated Rosecrans at Chickamauga but was routed at Chattanooga, a loss that cost him his command.



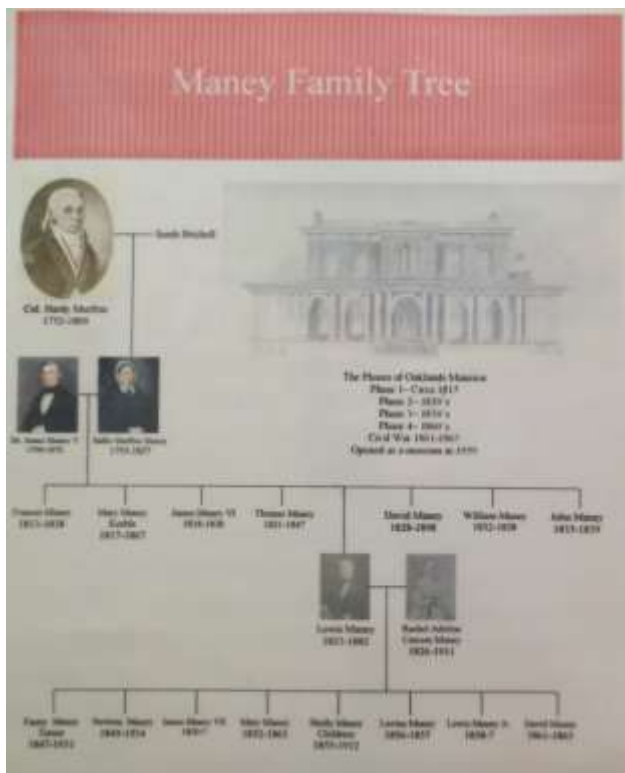
William Rosecrans, Union Commander, left the Army to work as an architect, mining engineer, and inventor. He rejoined at the outbreak of the war.

Rosecrans was popular with his troops, who called him Old Rosy. His "impulsive excitable personality" served him well at Murfreesboro but caused problems that led to his defeat at Chickamauga.

Source: Library of Congress



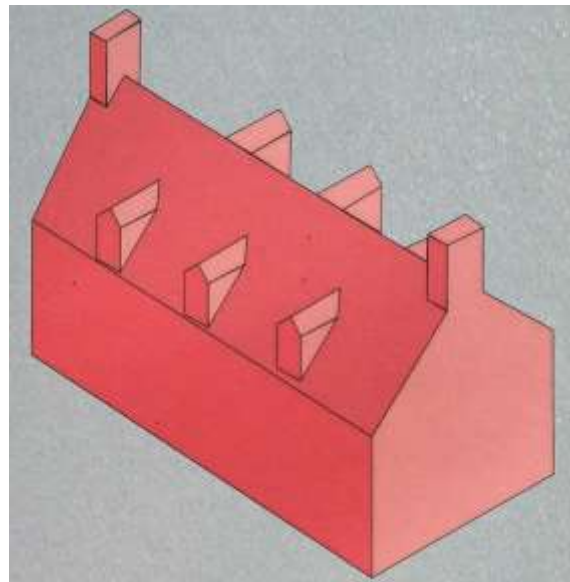
The history of Oaklands, an elegant mansion caught in the crossfire of the Civil War. This nationally registered, historic landmark reflects a time of prosperity in the Old South, the hardships suffered during the Civil War, and the pride of the Murfreesboro community.



1813 Sally Inherits Land from Colonel Hardy Murfree

In 1813, Sally Murfree Maney inherited 274 acres of land north of the town named for her father, Colonel Hardy Murfree (for whom Murfreesboro was later named), who died in 1809. It was on this tract that the Maneys constructed what would become one of the most elegant homes in Middle Tennessee.

1815 — 1818



A 3-dimensional drawing of the original two bedroom brick house.

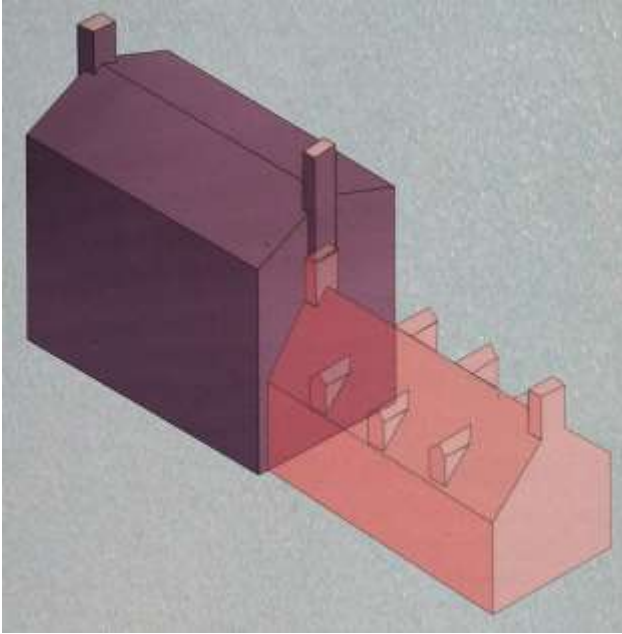


Painting of Colonel Hardy Murfree (1752 - 1809)

Building a Two-Room Brick House

Oaklands plantation began in the late eighteenth teens when Dr. James Maney and his wife, Sally Murfree Maney, built a two-room brick house next to a large spring north of Murfreesboro. The two-room house was built on the hall-and-parlor plan, a design that would have been familiar to the Maneys, who migrated from eastern North Carolina to Tennessee. It was a well-constructed one-and-a-half-story house with dormer windows and a chimney at each end, and penciling on the brick mortar. At a time when many people lived in log cabins, this small brick house reflected permanence and distinction.

1820 — 1829

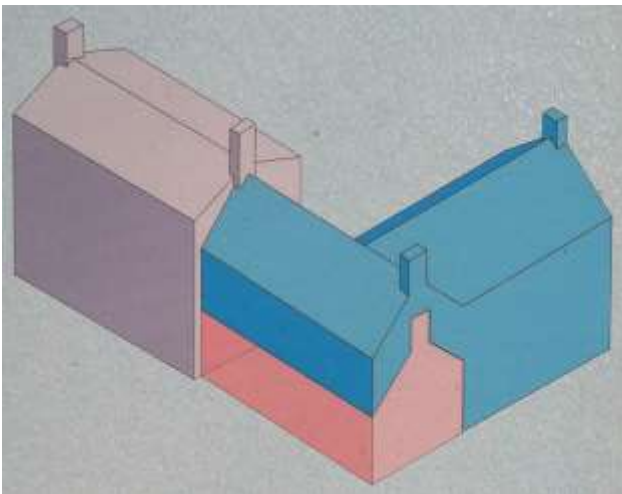


Oaklands house with new two-story addition.

Adding a Two-Story Addition

Its appearance was enhanced greatly in the 1820s when the Maney family attached a two-story addition, in the Federal style, to the west gable end of the original house. The new rooms included a parlor, a front hall passage with a staircase, and a chamber over the parlor that probably served as the Maney's first guest bedroom.

1830



Murfreesboro Square (1800s)

Adding a Two-Story Ell

By 1830, the Maney family at Oaklands was prospering and growing. In the 1830s, their skilled slaves added a two-story ell consisting of a dining room on the first floor, and children's bedrooms directly above and to the rear of the original two-room house. The workmen raised the ceiling height of the original two rooms to two stories to allow for a more unified roofline, larger second story rooms, and longer windows to bring in more light.

1857



Sally Dies

Sally Maney died August 12, 1857, of an unknown illness. She is buried in the Vine Street Cemetery in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Her husband retired from his medical practice that same year.

1857 — 1860



Rachel Adeline Cannon Maney (1826 - 1911)

Ownership Passes to Next Generation

After Sally's death, Dr. James remained owner of Oaklands until his death. Adaline and Lewis resided at Oaklands and were able to "share" in Dr. Maney's good fortune. From 1857 to 1860, they made extensive renovations and additions that brought Oaklands to its present appearance.

1858 — 1860

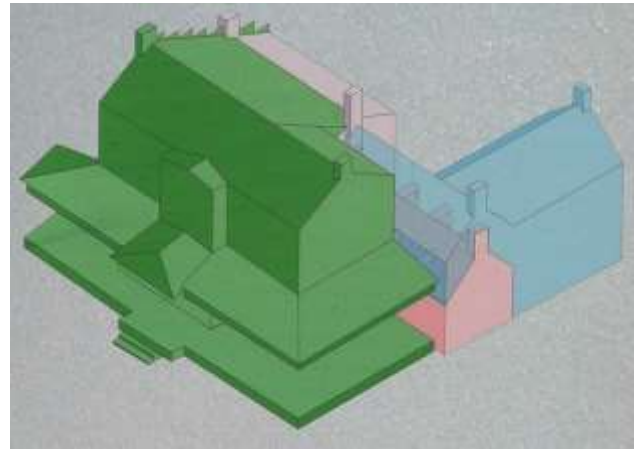


Oaklands front parlor decorated as it might have looked in the late 1800's.

Planning For Lavish Entertaining

Lewis and Adaline, the daughter of former Tennessee governor Newton Cannon (for whom [Cannonsburg](#) was named), were both accustomed to the privileges that accompanied their elite social status. Aware of the latest fashions in furnishings and architecture, they planned a new Italianate addition that would totally eclipse the old plantation house and make the manor more suitable for lavish entertaining. Note: Cannonsburg was the name of the original village that later became Murfreesboro.

1859 — 1860



The New Italianate Manor

The Italianate-styled two-story front addition, attributed to prominent local architect Richard Sanders, included a library and a front parlor. At the rear of the front hall, is a magnificent spiral staircase that leads to the upstairs bedrooms. A spacious central hall separated the bedrooms. The exterior of this section featured a grand arched front entrance on the first floor, hooded moldings, bracketed eaves, and an elegant second floor window that repeats the arched design of the front entrance directly below. The entire facade was dominated by a verandah of elaborate elongated chamfered arches and columns. It is this piece of architectural extravagance that sets Oaklands apart and has become a widely recognizable feature.

1860 — 1862

Other Notable Visitors

The Maney family hosted many other notable visitors including John Bell (Presidential candidate against Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas in the 1860 Presidential election), George Washington Custis Lee (son of Robert E. Lee), Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Sarah Childress Polk (the wife of President James K. Polk), naval officer and oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury (cousin of Rachel Adaline), Confederate General Braxton Bragg, Major General Leonidas Polk, Brigadier General George Maney (commander of the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment, C.S.A. and cousin of the Oaklands Maney), and various Union officers.

1861



USCT Heavy Artillery Unit in Tennessee c.1864
Courtesy of: [Library of Congress](#)

Civil War Overtakes the South

Lewis and Adaline did not have much time to enjoy their new home due to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. By then, Oaklands was the center of a working plantation that grew cotton, tobacco, vegetables, and other crops.

1862

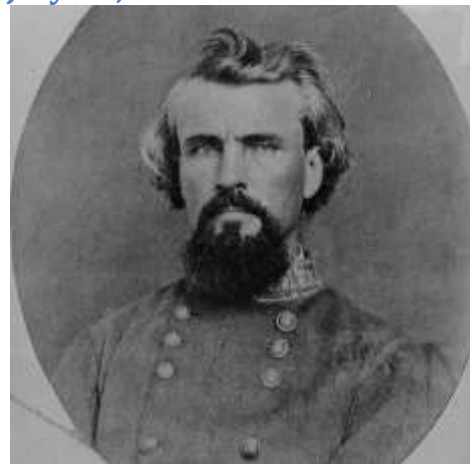


Confederate President Jefferson Davis
Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The President Visits

The Maney family hosts their most prominent visitor, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who stayed at Oaklands during his December 12-14, 1862 visit to Murfreesboro. He was accompanied by his aid, George Washington Custis Lee who was the son of General Robert E. Lee. A few weeks later, the Battle of Murfreesboro, or as some know it, the Battle of Stones River.

July 13, 1862



Nathan Bedford Forrest
Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

A Battle Is Won

On July 13, 1862, Confederate cavalymen under Nathan Bedford Forrest surprised and defeated Federal forces encamped on the plantation grounds (front lawn of Oaklands) near the spring and at the courthouse as part of a raid on Union-occupied Murfreesboro. It is said that Lewis and Adaline's children watched the fighting from the window of the second floor hallway. After the surrender was signed, both armies gathered for a meal of black eyed peas and sweet potatoes.

July 13, 1862



Union Colonel William Duffield

Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Confederates Accept Surrender

Union Colonel William Duffield, commander of the 9th Michigan Infantry Regiment, was wounded in the skirmish and taken into the house, where he was treated by the family.

Colonel William Duffield's wife was a guest in the Maney home while her husband recovered. This began the friendship of a Union Colonel and a southern businessman. The Confederates accepted the surrender of Murfreesboro inside the mansion.

1863



Lavinia Maney (1856 - 1857)

Post War Hardships

The Maneys, like many southern planter families, experienced personal and economic hardship as a result of the Civil War. By 1863, Lewis and Rachel Adaline had lost three of their eight children to illness. The abolition of slavery, as a result of the war, eliminated the work force on the Maney's plantations and therefore their principle source of income.

1863

Slavery Abolished

The Civil War brought momentous changes for the people of Oaklands, leading to an uncertain future beyond the plantation. Some men escaped to Union lines and joined the United States Colored Troops (USCT). Other men, women, and children gained their freedom by moving to the "contraband" camp at Maney Spring under the protection of the Union Army.

January 2, 1863

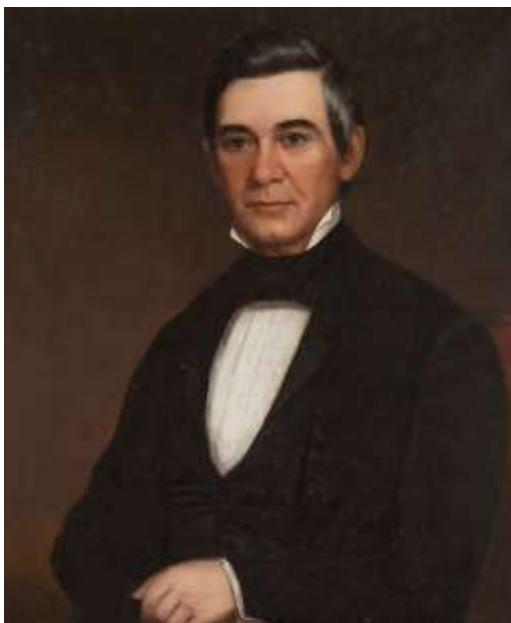


Source: [Shacklett's Photography](#)
Union Occupied Murfreesboro - View of the public square looking west. In the foreground are structures from the Union Encampment on the courthouse lawn. The town well is visible to the right.

Federals Regain Control

The town remained in Confederate hands until the Union victory at the December 31-January 2, 1862-63 Battle of Murfreesboro, or Stones River, after which the Federals regained control for the rest of the war.

1872



Dr. James Maney (1790 - 1872)
Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

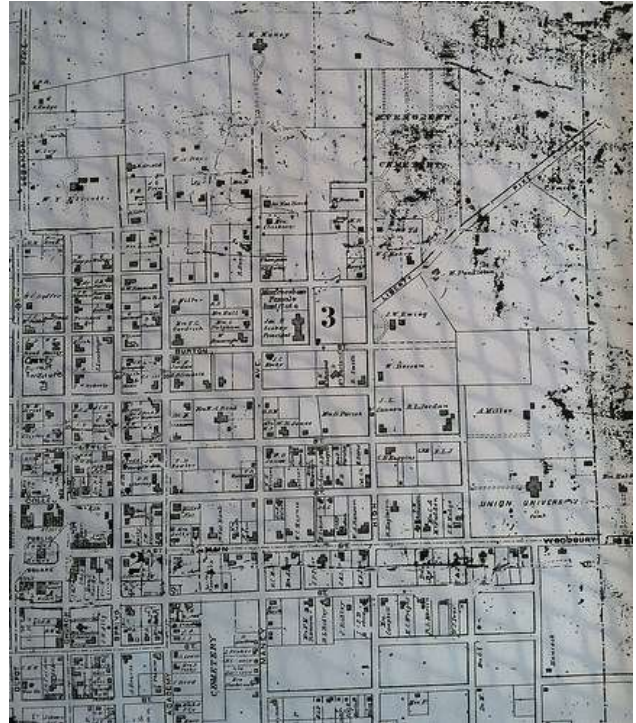
Dr. Maney Dies

Dr. Maney lived in the various households of his children until his death on November 12, 1872. After his passing, Adaline and Lewis took ownership of the mansion.

1872

The Maney's File a War Claim

In 1872, Dr. Maney filed a claim against the federal government in the amount of \$27,012 for property damage and losses incurred at Oaklands during the war as the result of the activities of both armies. The claim was ultimately rejected.



1878 map of Rutherford County, compiled by D.G. Beers & Co. (Philadelphia) -

The Oaklands property can be seen at the top near the center.

Selling Some Land

Before the war, the Maney's owned at least two tracks of land in Mississippi. One being The Trio Plantation which had 2,400 acres and a second tract of 2,000 acres. Each likely experienced extensive damage during the war, although the extent is not known. To alleviate their post-war financial difficulties, the Maney's sold off portions of their Oaklands landholdings. Two such transactions resulted in the creation of Murfreesboro's first subdivision "Maney's Addition" which is present-day Maney Avenue and the plantation burial grounds which became

the "new" city cemetery known as Evergreen Cemetery.

1882



Maj. Lewis M. Maney Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Lewis Dies

Lewis Maney died in 1882.

1884



The Darrow Family (1884-1912) Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Changing Hands

The Maneys had managed to retain possession of the plantation for almost twenty years following the war. However, in 1884, Rachel Adaline sold the house and 200 acres at public auction to cover the debts of Lewis Maney. Elizabeth Swoope of Memphis purchased the property. It was later inherited by her brother, Leonidas Hayley, and then, following his death, by Mrs. Swoope's daughter, Tempe Swoope Darrow. A number of changes, mostly interior modernizations such as the addition of electricity and plumbing, were made during the Swoope-Darrow period.

1912

Prominence Moves to Main Street

Tempe and her husband, George Darrow, moved out of Oaklands and to their new home on Main Street in 1912. They then sold the Oaklands house and some acreage to R. B. and Jennie Roberts. The Roberts family remained at Oaklands until 1936.

1936 — 1957



James K. Polk Hotel (Currently the site of SunTrust Bank)
Source: [Shacklett's Photography](#)

Meet the Jettons

Oaklands remained in the Roberts family until 1936 when they sold it to the Jetton family. The

Jettons owned the home until 1957. A few years before then, Ms. Rebecca Jetton found the house too large to maintain alone and moved into the James K. Polk Hotel in downtown Murfreesboro. The hotel was described on a hotel postcard as "a strictly modern hotel, including every room with bath, circulating ice water and ceiling fan" and also "all rooms luxuriously furnished and a homelike atmosphere throughout".

1954 — 1957



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Vandals Abound

From 1954 to 1957, the mansion was vacant and suffered neglect and vandalism. Woodwork, mantels, window frames, and many other architectural features were damaged or stolen. After the restoration began in 1959, many artifacts were returned and continue to be a part of our preservation.

1958



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

The City's Plan

The City of Murfreesboro purchased the property from a local realtor in 1958, and planned to raze the mansion to build low-income housing units. When the plan to raze Oaklands became known, a group of concerned local ladies mobilized to save the mansion from ruin.

1959



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Saving Oaklands

In April 1959, ten ladies of the community formed the Oaklands Association and lobbied the City to deed the mansion to them. The City agreed to do so, with the stipulation that the association restore the house and open it to the public within two years.

1960



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Restoring the Mansion

This group of dedicated women, displayed incredible creativity in their fundraising efforts with activities that ranged from selling hot dogs and hamburgers on the square to sponsoring a ballet performance in Murfreesboro. They then proceeded with the challenging task of cleaning, rehabilitating, restoring, and refurnishing the house.

1963



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

A Museum Opens

Oaklands opened to the public as a house museum in the early 1960s. Since then, the Association has directed its energies toward preserving, restoring, interpreting, and maintaining the mansion and its grounds, collections, and furnishings.

May 13, 2015



Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)

Today

The Oaklands Historic House Museum welcomes several thousand visitors each year, including special tour groups, school children from Rutherford and surrounding counties, and people from many states and foreign countries. It is a popular venue for weddings, special events, community programs, and photography. Source: [Oaklands Historic House Museum](#)





Evergreen Cemetery is a 90-acre cemetery located in [Murfreesboro, Tennessee](#). The cemetery began as a slave cemetery until its owner Dr. James Maney (the owner of [Oaklands Plantation](#)), deeded a 20-acre (8.1 ha) portion of his land to the city of Murfreesboro in 1872 to replace the "Old City Cemetery" which is located near downtown Murfreesboro. The cemetery is the final burial place for many notable people from Tennessee and the grounds are home to centuries old maple, oak and magnolia trees. Some of the trees pre-date the cemetery and a number of the headstones are more than 140 years old.

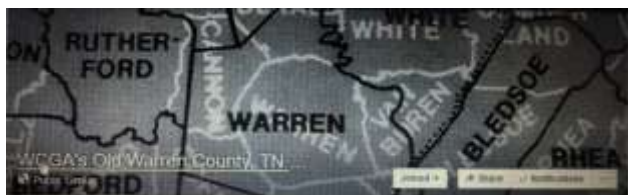
It is located at 519 Greenland Drive and is open Monday-Friday, 9 AM-4 PM. Tours of the cemetery, presented by Oaklands Mansion, are also held each year.



The ***Confederate Circle***, a mass grave site, was established in 1890. In 1891, remains of Confederate soldiers were gathered from burial locations across the area, including the "Old Confederate Cemetery" located about 1.5 miles (2.4 km) south of Murfreesboro, and reinterred here. Some 2,000 - about 90% unnamed - soldiers, are buried in the Circle.



The Circle is the site of several observances and memorials throughout the year for local Sons of Confederate Veterans Camps, including Camps #33 and #1355.



WCGA On The Radio



Cheryl Watson Mingle and Scarlett Griffith were guest for the "Behind The Mike" radio show on October 16. They are pictured with Kelly Marlowe who is host for the show on 96.0 AM radio in McMinnville.

September 2016 Membership

Complimentary Memberships	
(Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Exchange Memberships	
(Swap of Bulletins, at no fee)	3
Honorary Life Memberships	
(Receive Bulletins, at no fee)	2
Renewed Memberships	
(A member in prior year - Full fee)	83
New Memberships	22
Total Memberships	112
* Newsletters e-mailed	135

Join us

At the next meeting of the
Warren County Genealogical Association
Members Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2:00 p.m.

3pm Tour Old City Cemetery

Our office is in the rear of the
 Warren County Administration Building
 201 Locust Street, McMinnville, TN

Christmas Times A Coming Great Christmas Presents



The Courthouse, McMinnville, TN
(First in a series)
First Methodist Church, McMinnville, TN
(Second in a series)
The Birthing Tree, McMinnville, TN
(Third in a series)
Hebe, McMinnville, TN
(Forth in a series)

*All four available for \$18 each at
Southern Museum
201 E. Main Street, McMinnville
Open Wed., Fri., Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4 p.m. and
Warren Co. Genealogical Association
County Administrative Building 201 Locust St.
Open Fridays 1:00-4:00 p.m.*

Share our Newsletter

Do you have a relative or friend you would like to receive the WCGA Newsletter? We would be happy to add them to our list.

Just send their name and email address to:
ctmingle@blomand.net



*The annual
WCGA
Christmas outing
will be held on
December 3, 12 NOON
at
Fall Creek Falls Resturant*

To make your reservation

Contact Cheryl Watson Mingle ctmingle@blomand.net or
email to scarlettanngriffith@gmail.com

WCGA is on Facebook!

Come visit us at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Warren-County-Genealogical-Association/135126859883450>

We're also on the web, visit us at:

www.tngenweb.org/wcgatn

Our office is in the rear of the Warren County
Administration Building,
201 Locust Street, McMinnville
Open Fridays 1 to 4 p.m.

