



Picture courtesy of: <http://theboot.com/little-jimmy-dickens-moments/#photogallery-1=4>

Little Jimmy Dickens

Little Jimmy Dickens may have been small (4’11”) in stature, but he was a giant in the entertainment world.

Born James Cecil Dickens on December 19, 1920 in Bolt, West Virginia, he joined the Grand Ol’ Opry in 1948. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1983.

Most of his big hits were comedic type songs, with “May the Bird of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose” in 1965 charting at No. 1 on the country chart and No. 15 on the pop chart. Jimmy was ahead of Porter Wagoner with the glitz on his clothes. His nickname “Tater” was coined by legendary Hank Williams after Jimmy’s 1949 hit “Take an Old Cold ‘Tater (and Wait).”

Jimmy lived in the Brentwood Hills subdivision for many years. Each Christmas he decorated his home and gates in a fashion as spectacular as his sparkling clothes. Traffic backed up on Franklin Road with a line of cars waiting to drive by his house.

Opry general manager Pete Fisher said of Little Jimmy at his funeral service on January 2, 2015: "He was the total package and then some — a hilarious comedian, a trailblazing energetic pioneer, a heart-wrenching balladeer." —



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Brentwood Historic Commission page: <https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodTNHistoricCommission/>

City of Brentwood Government page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityBrentwoodTN/>

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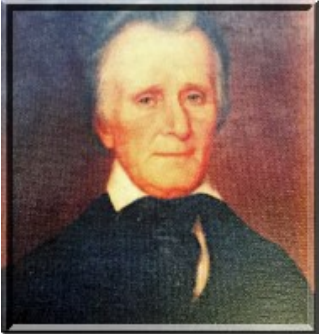


HISTORIC BRENTWOOD

In Remembrance of Revolutionary War Veteran Thomas Bradley of Brentwood, Tennessee

By Virginia Gooch Watson

In my quest to find a Revolutionary War veteran’s grave for my Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter to mark as such, I found the grave of Thomas Bradley, who lies in Brentwood, was not marked. For approval to mark a grave with a bronze plaque, proof that the veteran is buried in a grave is required by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Unfortunately, the grave-stones of Thomas and his wife, Margaret, disappeared in the early 1990’s with no visible signs, fragments or known pictures surviving. Therefore, a DAR marker cannot be erected. We do know that buried in the Bradley Cemetery were:



someday find a Bible, ledger or stonecutter’s record that indicates just where in the cemetery this couple is buried.

The cemetery is located in Concord Park (a 40-acre park that surrounds the Brentwood Library) in a wooded area near the walking trail. The Bradley home was reached by a driveway near the end of today’s Haber Drive and the cemetery was to the left of the house.

Thomas Bradley was a soldier in the Revolutionary War from the Hillsborough District of Caswell County, North Carolina. Thomas was born

in Virginia or North Carolina, married Margaret Norton 21 Dec 1791 in Caswell County where they lived until moving to Williamson County. Their son, Stephen S., was born here about 1801. Thomas became one of the county’s early settlers when he purchased 640 acres from James Crockett in 1802. Bradley added an additional 320 acres on his south side which made him the owner of nearly 1,000 acres which today would run from Concord Road to Moores Lane between Knox Valley Drive and the railroad. Bradley called his

Thomas Bradley, born 17 Dec 1765, died 13 May 1849 and his wife, Margaret Bradley, consort of Thomas Bradley, died 2 Jun 1828 aged 60 years

Modern technologies, like ground penetrating radar and core sampling, could be used to determine burials as well as probing the suspected gravesites for fragments of a marker. But determining “which” grave was Thomas’s would be difficult. If Margaret’s grave were marked, we could locate Thomas using the old custom that a wife was typically buried next to her husband in death in the same manner that she stands with him at the marriage altar, which is on his left. We may

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estate “Mount Pleasant” and the Bradley home stood about where the Brentwood Library stands today.

Thomas was one of the largest slave owners in Williamson County reportedly owning 33 in 1820 which would indicate that there was a slave cemetery on his property and could have adjoined the cemetery where he and his wife are buried. Bradley School was reportedly built by Thomas on his property, possibly near Moores Lane, where he no doubt sent his children for their education.

Thomas continued to serve his country in the Tennessee Militia as he was elected Colonel Commandant in the Williamson County 21st Regiment on 24 Jan 1829 (at age 64). He was very civic minded serving in many capacities such as a Juror and Commissioner in the county. Thomas wrote his will 20 Feb 1847 naming his children and appointing his son, Thomas H., sole executor.

A portrait of Thomas Bradley is shown on page one. The original is owned by a descendant, Sam Moore and his wife, Joanne Cullom Moore, of Frenchman’s Bayou, AR. Another son, Thomas H. Bradley (who always used his middle initial H) was born 25 Jul 1808 in Williamson County and married Jane E. Watson of Franklin in 1838. He, too, played a major role in the county’s history serving in many capacities, was Major General of the 3rd Division of the Tennessee Militia in 1849, moved to Crittenden County, AR and died in Memphis, TN 30 Sept 1864.

Even though Thomas Bradley’s grave cannot be pinpointed, our chapter has elected to honor his service with this article and perhaps those who travel the walking trail will reflect on his life and service to his country as they pass by, especially in the spring when it is “marked” by the daffodils that bloom in the old cemetery.

Thomas is “Gone but (Certainly) Not Forgotten.”

Sources for this article are as follows:

Obituary in the Williamson County, TN newspaper THE WESTERN WEEKLY REVIEW 25 May 1849 issue; NSDAR Ancestor Database, Member No. 664501; “*Directory, Williamson County, Tennessee, Burials, Volume 3*” published by the Williamson County Historical Society, 1991, p. 217 and “ . . . Volume 1, published 1973, p. 28. (It should be noted that due to a typo in the *Directory, Williamson County, Tennessee, Burials, Volume 1*”, p. 28, Thomas’s death was typed 1819 instead of 1849); FindAGrave.

City of Brentwood, TN *Historic Places in Brentwood*” at <http://brentwood.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=5897adc43bd846e3ac379827913f6b2b>; [click on Bradley cemetery]; FindAGrave. The X on the map marks the cemetery behind the large building which is the Brentwood Library. The GPS coordinates are longitude and latitude: -86.78995, 35.99358 but there is no fencing or signage.

NSDAR Member No. 664501; N.C. Revolutionary Army Accounts, Vol. VI, page 58, Folio 2, Roll #55.3.

North Carolina Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Caswell County, Ancestry.com database online.

T. Vance Little, *When Cotton Was King On Concord Road; A History of Brentwood Subdivisions*, published by the author, Brentwood, TN, 1999, pp. 23-24.

Tennessee Early Tax List Records 1783 – 1895; Ancestry.com database for 1805 Williamson County, TN.

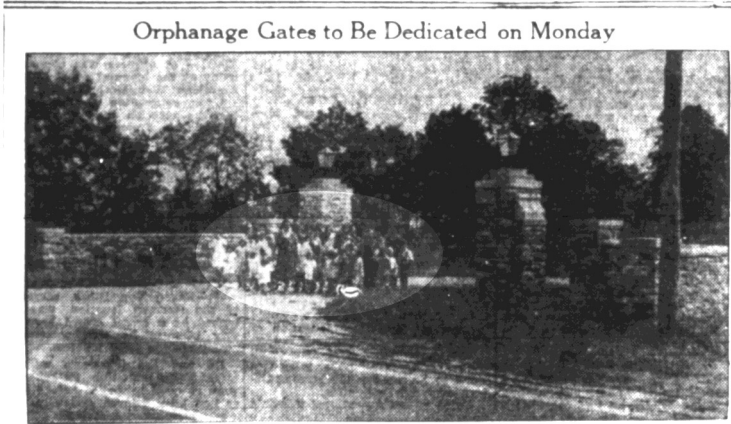
Louise G. Lynch *Newspaper Excerpts 1822-1835, Williamson County, TN*, published by author, Franklin, TN, 1985, p. 42 in *The Western Balance*, issue of January 30, 1829.

Williamson County, TN Will Book 9, pp. 288 – 289 for will; pp. 300-301 for inventory of July 1849.

Rick Warwick and Bill Duke, *Portraits of Williamson County*, Franklin, TN, Williamson County Historical Society, 2010.

Original letter from “Head Quarters 3d Division, Franklin May 26, 1846” from “Tho H. Bradley Maj Gen 3 Divis T M” in possession of Rick Warwick, Williamson County Historian, Franklin, TN.

FindAGrave.



Photo

TENNESSEE BAPTIST ORPHANS HOME ENTRANCE IN 1933

The caption of the above picture reads: “On Monday afternoon at 4 o’clock, the gates, pictured above, will be presented to the board of the Baptist Orphanage by the Orphanage Garden Club . . .” The Orphanage Garden Club took up the cause of teaching horticulture to the girls and boys living there. There is an entry in the minute book of the regular meetings of the Board of Managers of TBOH on page 127, dated Monday, November 27, 1933 which states:

“1. That we record our thanks to the Orphanage Garden Club of Nashville for the beautiful gate and good work that they have done in beautifying our campus and extend to Mrs. Hale appreciation for work done.”

This beautiful entrance stood for 84 years. During the summer of 2017, the stones were removed by the Tennessee Baptist Children’s Home for preservation. The Tennessee Department of Transportation has begun a three to four year project of widening Franklin Road from Concord Road north of the campus to Moore’s Lane south of the grounds. When the entrance is rebuilt some of the saved stones will be incorporated into the new gateway.

Many other changes have taken place over the years. Gone are the dormitories; replaced by cottage-style homes with married couples replacing matrons. The children attend public schools off site. There is a swimming pool and a picnic pavilion build by the Nashville Predators. And so many more. [Editor’s note: I see all these changes with a keen eye because I lived at the Home for a little over eight years. 1945-1953]

The initial meeting of the Baptist Orphanage Garden club was held recently in a committee room of the Baptist Sunday school building. The object of the club is to beautify the grounds at the orphanage, and to sponsor the study and cultivation of plants and flowers by boys and girls of the home.

An architect's drawing for a stone and wrought-iron entrance gateway, was submitted and approved. Work on this, and also the planting of a hedge and an avenue of Chinese elms for the 500 feet of the orphanage's frontage on Franklin road, will be done at once.

Officers selected for the new club include: Mrs. Will T. Hale, president; Mrs. G. P. Edwards, treasurer; Mrs. Benjamin Byrd, recording secretary; Mrs. W. T. Stewart, resident secretary; Mrs. I. J. Van Ness, chairman of membership.

Mrs. Hale asks for a full attendance of the thirty members already enrolled at a meeting to be held Wednesday, March 18, at 2:30 o'clock, in the chapel at the orphanage. A landscape artist will be present to advise as to the further planting of the grounds.

MILTON'S MEMORIES OF HIS DAYS AT THE
TENNESSEE BAPTIST ORPHANS' HOME

My siblings, Vernon, Milton, Mary, and Raymond Aldridge and I (Lyla Katheryne) were placed in the TBOH June 16, 1945. We lived there until August 27, 1953.

In Vol.9 Issue 2 of *The Bugle* there is a story of the tearing down of two historic barns on the grounds of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. The TBOH was renamed TBCH in 1953. I sent this issue to my brother, Milton, who now lives in Virginia. He well remembers the barns. His memories follow:



"Yes, the pictures bring back memories. If memory serves correctly, the door behind the man in the picture was where Vernon was trying to seek refuge before a bull gored him. He did not make it through the door before the bull got him; however, no great damage was done by the 2000 pound animal.

"Also, I remember placing bales of hay inside the large structure on the right of the long low part of the building [picture on the right] as viewed from Wikle Road. We would stack the bales so we had tunnels throughout the 2000 (?) bales of hay.



"The large structure on the far end of the low part of the building also had stalls where cows were kept to have calves. It was to the right of this part of the barn where all of the manure from the milking parlor and stalls was stacked with pitch forks - no equipment needed, thank you.

"During the spring of each year the yearly collection of manure would be forked into a manure spreader for spreading on the fields. So, the manure from the milk cows was handled at least twice each and every year.

"There is one part missing in front of the low part of the building. That is the milk house where the milk fresh from the cows would be brought to be poured into a large funnel on top of a cooling machine. By the time the milk rolled over the cooling coils it would be about 35-40 degrees when it finally dripped into five gallon milk cans. To stop the milk from dripping there was a small ball bearing placed over the hole whilst the full milk can was removed and an empty one put in place. Oh, it tasted so good! I remember it well! We were not allowed to drink it very often. Mrs. McKinney was the one who ran the milk cooling part of the operation while her husband, Mr. McKinney, ran the dairy operation and the huge three-acre or so garden."

The above is certainly not all of Milton's memories — only the ones relating to the historic barns.

Milton, Mary and I went to the annual reunion held at the grounds of TBCH in August. Milton and Mary still keep up with several friends from those days. The Home and grounds are much changed from our days there. The vegetable garden is gone; the cows no longer graze the farmland; the food hall no longer boasts the best chocolate pudding I've ever tasted; and the long sidewalk where I learned to skate and turn circles without stopping — my favorite memory — no longer exists!

Brentwood Historic Commission launches new facebook page
Visit us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodTNHistoricCommission/>



The city has a large collection of past interviews with residents related to Brentwood history. Many of those reside at the Brentwood Library.

"I think in the works we'll be re-looking at some of those videos and re-digitizing them to make them more current for people to check out," Historic Commission member Sherry Hammond said.

The commission also has an oral history committee that is planning future interviews.

Deanna Lambert, Community Relations Director, explains our new Historic Commission facebook page. Thanks to the Brentwood Home Page for the article.

"As we find people who have lived in Brentwood all their lives it's interesting to see how far Brentwood has progressed and how it was way back in the day," she said.

"In the age of social media we were trying to figure out how to inform a larger audience of our message," Deanna Lambert, the city's community relations director and a member of the commission, said. "Facebook seems like a good platform to put out there information about Brentwood history that people don't know."

Hammond intends to take on a larger role in maintaining the Facebook page in the coming weeks. She hopes that the page will be a valuable resource to longtime residents wanting to brush up on city history. However, she also wants it to be an educational source for recently transplanted citizens who may know little about their new home's past.

Lambert has played a key role in the Facebook page so far. She recently posted a video about Brentwood's historically African American Hardscuffle community, which was located along Church Street. She also posted an interview with longtime Brentwood resident, Dave Chambers, which was conducted by commission chair, Anne Goad.

"People move in here and they have no idea about the history of Brentwood, and if they're interested in history it's something I think that people would like to read about," she said.

She is currently working on a video about the Boiling Spring Academy, which is open intermittently for public tours and for special programs for area elementary schoolers. Current events, like site tours, will be a regular part of the Facebook page.

Also assisting Lambert and Hammond will be Jodi Rall, another member of the Historic Commission.

Lambert said that if you are supportive of the commission's new Facebook page, there is an easy way to show it.

"We encourage anyone to like our page," she said. "If you like Brentwood history this will be a fun way to learn about it."

The Brentwood Historic Commission

Anne Laine Goad, Chair	Chuck Sherrill	Carole Crigger
Ashley McAnulty, Vice-Chair	Hollie Cummings	Jodi Rall
Anne Dunn, City Commissioner	Kathie Greaves	Loyce Hooker
Linda Lynch, ex officio member	Katheryne Cowan	David Johnston
Sherry Hammond, Secretary		

Deanna Lambert, Community Relations

Box 788 Brentwood, TN 37024-0788

For more information: www.brentwood-tn.gov/about-us/history

Remember When . . .

In his book "The Brentwood I Remember" John M. Oden, Sr. gives us some insight on fun times in Brentwood.

In the 1930s and 40s Brentwood was a hot spot for illegal drinking and gambling. Two prominent nightclubs "The Palms Dinner Club" and the "Stork Club" had different ideas on how to keep their owners from being arrested.

The Palms Dinner Club was divided 20/80 by the Davidson / Williamson County line. The twenty per cent of the club was in Davidson County. The illegal gambling equipment was mounted on wheels. When the Davidson County sheriff visited, the equipment was simply rolled to the Williamson County side of the line. When the Williamson County sheriff came to call, the reverse happened. The club owner would be notified a few minutes before the raid. It is not known who the "informant" for each sheriff's office was, but inform they did.

The "Stork Club" had a slightly different method of evading the law. Its one-arm bandits were mounted on a "dumb waiter" and were lowered below floor level when the sheriff came to call.

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Brentwood Library, the Brentwood Historic Commission and the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society will once again co-host its annual all-day seminar.

The Legal Genealogist — Judy Russell, JD, CG, CGL



How Old Did He Have to Be...?

Is this man John the father or John the son? Could that man be my ancestor who married in 1802? Knowing a person's age is often the key to distinguishing between two people of the same name. But if no record gives a birth date, how do you know how old someone was? The law can often give the answer.



When Worlds Collide: Resolving Conflicts in Genealogical Records

The Genealogical Proof Standard says to resolve conflicts in data... but like so

many things that sound good, it's easier said than done. What exactly are we supposed to do when we encounter conflicting evidence? What are the basic types of evidence conflicts and the methods — and tips and tricks — we can use to resolve them?



"Don't Forget the Ladies" — A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law

In early America Women were all too often the people who just weren't there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to "protected" — second-class — status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today.



After the Courthouse Burns: Rekindling Family History through DNA

Catastrophic records loss due to fires and disasters at courthouses is a fact of life for genealogists. When a disaster takes out birth, marriage, death, court, land and probate records all in one fell swoop, it may still be possible to light our family's research fires — to rekindle our interest in our ancestral roots — using DNA evidence.

9 am — 4 pm

Doors open at 8:15 for registration

Pre-registration guarantees information packet and lunch. To pre-register go to:
<http://www.mtgs.org>