

Owensboro Daily Messenger.

Owensboro, KY, 29 September 1918, p1B:

Owensboro "In The Good Old Days"

THE Louisville Courier-Journal recently in its "in the good old days" column published the following:

"One of the relics of Owensboro has been compelled to give way to the spirit of public improvement. The first log house ever built in that place, situated on Frederica street, is being torn down, and Leo Sims is going to erect a spacious tobacco warehouse on the site. The old residence was built nearly fifty years ago by a man named Yeager, and has been occupied ever since."

This factory was really built at Main and Locust streets and is now in the possession of the Guenther Hardware Co., and is used as a warehouse, being known for some time as the Owensboro Hardware and Iron Co.

The Sims home in early years was on the site now held by the duplex apartments known as the Alex Hill place, later purchased by Dr. J. C. Hoover and made into the present flats, owned by A. Y. Allen and occupied by Dr. Hoover and Mr. Allen and their families. The Sims home was a small frame standing at that point. Later the family moved further down town and lived at Eighth and Frederica, now the home of Miss Edna Gates. F. L. Sims formerly came from West Louisville. He has a son and daughter now in Owensboro, Mrs. William Murdock, who was Miss Melissa Sims and Melvin Sims, who live in Walnut street.

Memories Brought Back

This paragraph from the Courier will bring back memories days gone by to the older citizens of the town when just after the war the whole tract of land from the Ohio river to Glenville, including the site the Sims tobacco factory and the home, Waveland, and on out the Frederica street road was the Griffith estate, later being the property of three brothers. Dan, Clint and Will Griffith, the first named being the father of the present D. H., J. T., and Clint Griffith. Besides a landowner, Dan Griffith of the Civil War days was a lawyer of prominence. The Zack Robinson home in Frederica street was built by the Griffiths. Later R. H. Crutcher purchased the place later known as the Sims home and later the Alex Hill place, as above outlined. Rev. F. F. Howard purchased Waveland later sold to James Weir.

Popular Picnic Ground

Waveland, belonging to the Weirs, was in the after the war days the popular picnic ground of the city. John McFarland bought the site where the high school stands from Griffiths and there built his home, the grandfather of Miss Vitula McFarland. Jack Thompson, clerk of the circuit court bought his home near the McFarland home, now where the home of Judge L. P. Little now stands. Jack Thompson held the position of clerk of the circuit court before the war and when he

returned when the war was over he was re-elected. The McFarland home was a two story brick residence. The McFarland home and the Little home were the only two in the square.

Coming down the other side of Frederica Street, 48 years ago, there bounded by Seventh, Frederica, Eighth were but three houses in the square and Allen streets, which was for years known as the Anthony Place. William Anthony had his home at the corner of Seventh and Frederica and for a time the square was a garden for the residence. Then Ed. Mitchell built his home near Eighth street, the site now occupied by the E. T. Franks home, and on the corner of Frederica and Eighth the present P. T. Watkins bought his lot and on the garden spot erected his home. The Anthony place has long since been converted into Dr. M. G. Buckner's home.

Hon. Phil Triplett's land continued up Frederica street with the exception of the James L. Johnson tract, back of St. Ann street from Fourth street to Wilson's Lane and on this land had been built the Union Station, College, Farnsworth flats, public library and the residences on out Frederica. The Johnson estate was an extensive holding, later being known as the Phillips place in Phillips court, and back of it for years stood the new L. and N. station. The old L. and N. station still stands in East Main street.

Duck Shoot Pond

For years the square bounded by Frederica, Eighth, Ninth and Allen was a duck shooting pond and skating rink in the winter time for the young people. And Frederica had no asphalt road then, but there were ditches on either side of the street for drainage and every home had its little bridge to get in from the road.

Coming down town, what does one find in the past history of the city? There was the Planters just where it now stands, and there was the Planters bank standing opposite it facing Frederica, where the Hayden & Ratican saloon now stands, at Third and Frederica. It was first the Southern Bank of Kentucky and went out of existence during the war, but was reorganized after the war and became the Planters in '65 and in '81 the First National. The other bank was the Deposit Bank, located at Second and St. Ann, where now stands the L. D. Baer saloon.

Another hotel was the Reinhardt, operated by the father of the present grocermen, located at Frederica and First streets, now the Bill Hunter place. And associated with him was John Neicam, a baker, who later owned the whole square facing Frederica, the father of Mrs. Henrietta Weill, and Mrs. J. V. Gasser. Where the City Transfer Co. building is was a clothing shop run by a Mr. Kigel.

Where the Y. M. C. A. stands, the whole block was a Catholic school and the home of the sisters. Where the Rudd now stands and the adjacent territory was law offices.

Frederica street Buildings

Going toward the river on North Frederica stood general merchandize shops of Billy Weber, the hatter, father of Mrs. Frank Gunther, McGill Bros., and Simmons Bros. W. H. Kerney's grocery stood on the site occupied by Dahl & Groezinger. Judge George Triplett, lawyer, surveyor and general business man was instrumental in the surveying and laying out of the city.

To get to Louisville after the war one took the packet, boat and made the trip in a day and a half and the round trip to Louisville took three days, quite an adventure in the lives of all who took the excursion. A little later the L. & N. Co. built its spur in from Bevier and Mr. T. M. Murphy made the first trip to Bevier as a passenger on the new road.

And Owensboro had her warriors. There was Captain Joe Millett, at Camp Burnett, where people for twenty miles around were busily engaged in providing for the wants of the soldiers. A newspaper account says of the conditions: – "Everything of luxury and comfort is to be had – and without the exorbitant taxes lavished upon the Northern army. Capt. Millett is vigorously engaged in forming his company, and having them well disciplined for the field. It is a fine looking company. And not speaking disparagingly of the 'Dixies,' who left here some months ago, it is take them all in all the – the finest and most commanding company ever selected in this section of the country. Many of them were soldiers in the Mexican War and know how to hold a sturdy nerve and true eye on the enemy. Such a company as that of Capt. Millett's, we feel no hesitation in saying will be received with universal praise in Camp Burnett. We thought the soldiers that left here last spring for the Confederate service under Capt. Jack Thompson were as fine a set of men as we have ever seen together in one company, but this last turn out surpasses our most sanguine expectations." Capt. Millett was a grandfather of Lieut. Joe Lewis now in France, his mother, Mrs. W. W. Lewis, being a daughter, also Mrs. Sam Ewing is a daughter.

Capt. Todd's Death

The Louisville Democrat publishes the death notice of Capt. C. S. Todd.

We regret to learn that in the recent battle before Murfreesboro Capt. Todd, of Shelby county, lost his life, whilst gallantly leading his men into action. Capt. Todd was for several months on Gen. Rousseau's staff as volunteer aid. When Capt. Hauptoff resigned, Capt. Todd was commissioned in his stead as captain Co. C, the 6th Ky. Regt., which position he held at the time of his death. He was the son of Col. Thomas Todd, of Shelby county, and the grandson of Col. Charles S. Todd, formerly minister to Russia, and the greatgrandson of Governor Isaac Shelby. A more gallant officer, better soldier, and pleasant gentleman was not to be found in the regiment. He nobly represented the family traits and yielded his life up in fighting for his country's cause – following in the line of his ancestors." Capt. Todd's relatives are many in the city. But a short time ago silken flag was dedicated to his memory in Trinity Episcopal church.

Linking days that were with days that are, these few reminders of : after the war days" will bring to mind many people and many incidents long since forgotten by their contemporaries and their descendants.

[Author of article was not given.]

