

BLACKMAN

Tennessee was once a part of North Carolina but the people of N. C. thought that the distance was too far to govern. So in 1772 the settlers west of the mountains formed their own government, The Watauga Association. The rugged mountains toward the east prevented easy travel. Instead of surrendering to gloom, they set up a government, that was the first democratic government west of the mountains. William Blount was appointed its first governor by President Washington in 1790. It was called the Southwest Territory and Territory of the U.S. of America South of the Ohio River at this time. N.C. turned the territory over to the Federal Government in 1790 and in 1796 it was admitted to the union as Tennessee, the 16th state. Many of the early settlers here came from N.C. and Va.

Rutherford County was created by an act of the General Assembly at Knoxville on October 25, 1803 and was named in honor of Major General Griffith Rutherford. It was formerly a part of Davidson Co.

Soon after the county was formed the Beesleys, Besses, Blackmans, Kings, Bateys came from Va. & N.C. and settled in this part of Rutherford Co. The Snells, Howses & Haynes were also early settlers.

During the 1780's Col. James Armstrong was given a large grant of land, 7200 acres, for his services in the American Revolution. This grant was in the most fertile part of Rutherford Co. Abstract deeds show that the boundaries were south of the Salem Road, along the Armstrong Valley Road and extending north to Stewarts Creek and being between Overall Creek and Stewarts Creek.

It is almost certain that James Armstrong never came to Rutherford County but later divided this land and gave it to his six children. His daughter, Mary, married William Martin Herriage of Newbern, N.C. Mrs. Henry Zellner's farm is a part of the William and Mary Armstrong Herriage tract.

The Besses, who settled at Blackman are descended from the Herriages who, apparently, did not come to Rutherford Co.

Since the beginning of the settlement of this county, Blackman has played a major role in its economic, social and historic development. The land is unsurpassed in its fertility and the people have been most enterprising. This area was the breadbasket during the Civil War. The community was called Wilkerson's Cross Roads in 1870-1895. At this time Blackman was the 5th largest settlement in the county.

1. Murfreesboro	3993	1795 whites	2194 blacks
2. Barfield	2063	526 whites	1537 blacks
3. Sulphur Springs	2000	488 whites	1512 blacks
4. Fox Camp	1758	440 whites	1318 blacks
5. Blackman	1608	553 whites	1055 blacks

For many years there has been a store at the cross roads and at one time it had two stores, a blacksmith shop and a post office. There were doctors to look after the sick, a school and churches.

Isaac Burlason and his family came to the Southwest Territory about 1795, found a spring and settled on the old stage road, the present Burlason Road. Indians ran them away but they returned about 1805. Some of this land was a homestead, a 160 acre tract of public land granted by the U.S. government to a settler to be developed as a farm. Most of this land is still owned by Isaac Burlason's descendants. Four generations of this family are buried in the family cemetery. This farm is across a lane from the Sump

Dismukes farm. The old Burlason home was torn down recently and the logs have been sold. Isaac Burlason's grandson, H. B. Talley was a lawyer, two or his great, great grandsons are lawyers and a great, great, granddaughter is a doctor.

Deed Book A No. 25 in the courthouse in Murfreesboro shows that Thomas Armstrong deeded 1200 acres of land to John Beesley on October 19, 1803. Both men were living in Newbern, N.C. at this time. The deed was registered in Rutherford Co. in July 1804. The Beesleys were the first settlers in Blackman as far as we know. The old Solomon Beesley home is located just south of Beesley Church on the Blackman Road. It is the residence of Mrs. Frank Beesley and was built soon after Solomon Beesley came to this county in 1804. It is a large cedar log house and originally contained two large rooms and a dog-trot. Solomon's son, Christopher (Kit) Beesley, was born here soon after the family came from Newbern, N.C. He was probably the first child born in this community. Beesleys have lived here since 1804. There is little doubt that it is the oldest house in Blackman. One half mile north of the Solomon Beesley home Christopher Beesley built the first house at this location, a cedar log one room house with a lean-to for a kitchen. This house was built about 1830. It was the birthplace of eleven of the thirteen children of Christ & Susan Ridout Beesley. In the 1850's the log part of the present house was built. It was also made of cedar logs. Later weather board was used to cover the logs. Later the house was enlarged to its present size. It is now the residence of Henry Grady Beesley, grandson of Chris Beesley. This farm has been in the family all these years.

George Beesley a third generation Beesley built the George Beesley home on the Franklin Road shortly after the Civil War. It was made of logs and covered later. Mr. W. H. Owen owns this home at the present time. George Beesley's grandson, Jesse, is a well known sculptor. After living in N.Y. city for many years he has returned to Murfreesboro to live. He makes figures of children at his home on College Street. The founder of the Beesley Furniture Co. in Nashville was reared here. The company is still owned by his descendants.

Springfield - The Smith Home. Springfield is located just across the Overall Creek bridge at the west end and on the north side of the Manson Pike. It is rated very high among the historic homes of Rutherford Co. It was said to be one of the biggest houses in the county at one time. It housed soldiers on their way to the battle of New Orleans and later some soldiers from the Union and Confederate armies were sheltered here. Springfield was built in 1805-09 by General John Smith. The land was first owned by John Mulkerin as a grant for military service during the Revolution. The land was purchased by Robert Harrold of Warren Co., Ky. who in turn sold it to General Smith of Goochland Co., Va., an officer in the militia. The deed was dated 1805 and describes the property as containing 640 acres. General Smith came here from Va. with many pieces of fine furniture and forty slaves by oxcart. These slaves built the house, baking the brick in an old kiln that once stood on the place. They morticed and pegged the timbers together. The fine carved mantles and woodwork must have been done by skilled craftsman. Francis Whitney Washington, a great grandson of General Smith,

remodded the house in 1857, adding the portico and the tall columns and lengthening the windows to the floors. General Smith's daughter, Julia, married Fontaine Crockett and their daughter, Sarah Katherine Crockett married Francis Whitney Washington, a fourth cousin of President George Washington, whose son, John Hall Washington inherited the place. His son's Francis & Howell were lawyers. Howell still practices law in Murfreesboro. His daughters were Isabella and Sara Washington. Springfield was sold for the first time in 1950. The family cemetery is near the entrance to the farm.

The old Dewitt Smith house and farm is just west of the Washington farm. It is owned by MTSU at the present time.

The Bob and Emma Smith farm was located across the road from the Blackman Clubhouse. He and Dewitt Smith were brothers. His wife, Mrs. Emma Smith, died in 1911 but her family lived here for many years. Dewitt and Bob Smith were sons of G.W. Smith

James Bass, Sr. came to Tennessee from Va. in 1807. Book E No 471, page 402 in Rutherford Co. courthouse shows that Wm. Martin Herritage deeded 1200 acres of land to James Bass, Sr. on July 10, 1807. This land was a part of the Armstrong Grant. His home just north of the store at Blackman was unlike most of the early homes for the older log part is a two-story, two room building without the dog-trot and the front is a frame building. An old history of Rutherford said it was the first frame house in the county. He married Temperance Jordan in Va. before coming to Tenn. She was born in 1761. For service in the Va. Militia, Rev. War, the D.A.R.'s have placed a small marker in the Bass Cemetery in his memory. James Bass, Sr. died in 1826 and was buried in a small cemetery on his farm. The stones have been destroyed and there is no record of his birth date. James Bass' children were:

1. Thomas Bass
2. Ben J. Bass - *Ben Bass brother of James Bass, Sr*
- and J. Dallas Bass, a well-known Methodist minister (Pulaski).
3. Temperance W. Bass Rucker
4. Nancy Bass Smith - Married Peyton Smith, minister
5. Mary C. Bass Lughlin
6. Hartwell Bass
7. James Bass, Jr., born July 19, 1798, died March 19, 1864.

James Bass, Jr. was married to Eliza Ann Catherine Howse, the daughter of Ambrose Howse. Her home and the Howse cemetery were on the Blackman Road across the road from the old Buchanan home, now the Gillespie home. James Bass, Jr. and his wife Eliza Bass lived on the Brown Chapel Road and owned the John L. Batey farm. The old home was torn down when J. C. Batey built his home at this location in 1905. This farm has been owned and operated by James Bass' descendants for more than a hundred years. Eliza Ann Catherine Bass and James Bass, Jr. are buried in the family cemetery on the Batey Farm. They had thirteen children:

1. Their son Andrew was killed in the Battle of Stones river.
2. George W. Bass never returned from the Civil War. His family never knew what happened to him. They thought he might have died in a prison camp.
3. Fannie married Richard Ransom. Their son Dr. John J. Ransom was a Methodist minister. He was a missionary in Brazil for several years. His son John Crowe Ransom was a well known poet, a Rhodes Scholar and taught at Vanderbilt.

- 4 & 5. Eliza S. & Sarah A. Bass never married. They lived with their sister Mrs. Alfred W. Blackman.
6. Robert C. Bass had one child who married an Anderson. Robert died when he was 29.
7. Thomas W. Bass - Old house on the hill after Civil War. (Lanes descendants.)
8. James J. Bass built the house where Elizabeth Davis lives on Bass Road. His children, George Bass, Blanche Bass, and Sarah Bass never married. They lived in this house until their deaths and are buried in the family cemetery on the farm.
9. Ambrose H. Bass
10. Hartwell Bass - His daughters Mary & Lyda married Charlie Holmes and H. B. Hyde and both lived in the Salem Community.
11. Mary Ann Bass married Alfred W. Blackman. They owned her father's home and lived in it until they built the house where the Riggs live in 1877. They had eleven children, two died as infants, one when he was twelve, the girls all married and lived in this county. Two of Mary Ann Bass' children: A son, Dr. George Blackman went to school in New York. He was a well-known veterinarian and lived in Illinois and Texas until he retired and came back to Smyrna to live. His wife, Laura Sanders Blackman was Dr. Van Sanders ~~sister~~ *sister* a well-known Nashville surgeon ~~Dr. Sanders~~. Andrew lived at Blackman for many years, then moved to Tullahoma. His son managed the hospital at Pulaski for several years, then moved to a Hospital in East Tennessee.

James Blackman, born Jan. 5, 1768, the son of Stephen Blackman and Anne Snell King Blackman, and his wife Elizabeth Ann Oats and their five children came to Rutherford Co., in 1808 and settled at what was later to be known as the Blackman Community. The place was named in honor of their son Alfred Blackman who spent a long life here and did much to develop the community. The Blackmans were from Sampson Co., N.C. Records in the courthouse show that they were there several years before coming to Tenn. Ann Snell, the daughter of Roger & Ann Snell, first married a King and had several children before she married Stephen Blackman. Therefore, the Kings and Blackmans who came to this county about the same time were half brothers. We do not know when James Blackman died for his grave marker was stolen, but his wife, Elizabeth Ann Oates died in 1845 and was buried in Blackman Cemetery (2). Alfred Blackman, the son of James Blackman, was born Nov. 14, 1790 at Clinton in Sampson Co., N.C. He was 18 years old when he came here with his family. As the years passed he acquired much land. He had a blacksmith shop on the N.E. corner of the crossroads before the Civil War and this area was called Blackman's Shop. After the war it was called Wilkinson's Cross Roads. In 1895 five of the Blackmans who lived here petitioned for and had a postoffice established at the store. The office was closed in 1913.

Jim Gresham, Curg Howse the father of Mayor Hilary Howse, George W. Haynes and Mr. Burton were some of the early owners and operators of the store here. Since the post office was established in 1895 this community has been called Blackman.

Alfred Blackman's son, Lazarus (Lad), married America Smith. They owned the farm where the Salee's live now. Their home was a large two-story brick. The house was badly damaged by a tornado on March 13, 1913 and burned later. She died on April 15, 1893. Their children were: Rayford C. Blackman, Alfred Watson Blackman, Betty Blackman and Mattie Blackman. Betty married Dr. Rafe Hall. Mattie married Sam Buchanan, born Dec. 20, 1839 and they had three sons and three daughters. After his death on April 14, 1891 she married Tom Richardson. Her grandson, Sam Lasseter, is the manager of the Commerce Union Bank in M'boro. A grandson, Dan Sanders, is a well-known doctor in Nashville. Rayford Blackman married Ann Rebecca Rideout when she was twenty and he was 42. Rayford had been a bachelor for many years and being a hard worker and extremely thrifty had acquired much land by this time and was growing cotton on an extensive basis. During the Civil War Federal soldiers took his crops, cattle and work stock and burned his home and barns. He and his wife were reduced to poverty. Later they were able to rebuild their fortune. They had suffered so much and he became so bitter that he never rebuilt their house. He was quoted as saying, "They will never burn another house for me for I will never build another one." He died on Christmas Eve 1888 and up until that time had lived in a slave cabin with a dirt floor in the kitchen. Rayford Blackman was a member of the Board of Directors of the 1st National Bank of M'boro in 1877. Sam Parable, a black man, who worked for his brother, told me that Rayford Blackman, rode his horse to the bank in M'boro and broke the bank by withdrawing his money and taking it home in a flour sack.

Rayford & Ann Rebecca Rideout Blackman's children were:

1. Ellen, who married Wm. Walker Woodruff.
2. Horace was never married and lived on the family farm with his mother until her death in 1924. He continued to live in their home until a few years before his death. Mr. Robert Alsup bought the farm. The old house burned recently.
3. Ben Blackman married Ellen Gresham. She died Feb. 16, 1907 Mrs. Mittie Blackman Zellner and Walter Blackman were their children. They lived on the Mullin's farm on the Manson Pike.
4. Alfred Watson Blackman married Mary Anna Bass, the daughter of James A. Bass & Eliza Howse Bass. They first lived in her father's old home. In 1877 he built the house where the Riggs live now. In the early 1900's J.C. Batey razed the old Bass house to build the present house at this location.

Alfred W. Blackman owned and operated a cotton gin on his farm. In 1885, he and N. C. Crichlow were vice-presidents of the Central Agricultural and Mechanical Assoc. He owned about 1000 acres of land when he died in 1899. John L. Batey, Johnny Riggs, and J. T. Harris own this land now.

The Bateys came to America about 1730-40 and settled in Va. Capt. Wm. Batey was born May 1, 1760 and died June 11, 1835. He was a soldier in the American Revolution, Capt. of Brunswick Co. Militia of Va. and was commissioned by Patrick Henry. He came to Tenn. in 1808 and was granted land for his service in the war. He and his family settled on his 600 acre farm 6½ miles west of M'boro., adjacent to the Henry King plantation on Highway 96. In 1956 Col. Hardy Murfree Chapter-D.A.R.'s erected a monument to his memory.

About the time of the Revolutionary War two Beatty brothers became involved in a serious argument over politics. One of the two was a Whig and the other a Tory. The ill feeling resulted in a change of names. William Beatty changed the spelling and pronunciation of his name to Batey. Most of the older Bateys settled in the Seminary Community.

Jack Batey, a son of Ben Batey, moved to this community in the early 1870's. His wife was Dr. Richardson's granddaughter, Kate. They reared eight children here. Their son James L. Batey lives on the Manson Pike just east of the store. Their home and farm is owned by J. T. Harris now. The old house has been torn down. They had an old open well there that was used for many years. Tom Batey and Mary Morton Batey lived in the Lyle McDonald home. Their children were Jim, Lawton & Walter Batey.

A. G. Gresham settled on the Manson Pike at Gresham Lane. His large two-story house was razed when Thomas Lane built his home there. He died on Mar. 18, 1876. His sons were Jim and Will Gresham. Jim married Annie May Batey and their son, Asa Gresham, lives in the Seminary Community. Will Gresham continued to live in the old family home until his death.

Claiborn Howse was another early settler here. His grandson, Hilary Howse, had a large furniture store in Nashville and was also elected mayor of Nashville several times. His half-brother, Neal Howse, lives on the Shirley Road. Ambrose Howse settled on the Shelton farm. The old family cemetery is still there but some of the stones have been destroyed. George Howse, a third generation Howse, was a prominent businessman in M'boro. Dr. Bart White and Mrs. Granville Ridley are his descendants.

Major John Buchanan was born Jan. 12, 1759 and died Nov 6, 1832. His wife Sally Ridley was born Nov. 28, 1774 and died Nov 23, 1831. They lived at Buchanan's Station in Davidson Co. in Mill Creek Valley, once the site of fine farms but now filling up with residences and subdivisions that mark the beginning of the Donelson Community. Mill Creek Valley once was the scene of one of the most famous Indian fights. It was Sally Buchanan sitting up alone in her kitchen, who heard the horses and cows struggling and running about. She quickly roused the men crying "Indians, boys, Indians." At this time her parents, the Riddleys, lived in a block house two miles from the fort. Sept. of 1792 had brought a grim Indian summer to the settlers on the Cumberland River. One day while Sally was making soap, she saw an Indian trying to set fire to her home. She quickly grabbed a gourd dipper and poured hot soap on his back. For many years the defeat at Buchanan's Fort was a cause of shame to the Indians and a source of pride to the early settlers. When we think of the hardships that they endured, we the descendants of Tennessee's pioneers have something to be proud of.

The 13th child of Major John Buchanan and his wife Sally was born Jan. 31, 1818. This child, Nancy Mulherin Newman Buchanan married Jackson Smith, son of Bartholomew Smith, March 7, 1834 and lived on the farm now owned by the Crocketts. Major John Buchanan owned land in Wilson, Williamson, Davidson and Rutherford counties. Nancy B. Smith, the daughter of Major John Buchanan inherited two tracts of land in Rutherford Co., six hundred and eleven acres adjoining John Bowen, including the Big Cave Spring, grant No. 37 and five hundred fifty-eight acres specified in grant No. 5168 on Stewarts Creek, adjoining Howell's Mill. Major Buchanan's will was recorded June 3, 1833.

Jackson and Nancy Smith's children were;

1. Jim Buck Smith - killed in Battle of Atlanta.
2. Brown & Batty - died from measles & Pneumonia while they were in the Civil War.
3. Jack Woods Smith lived in the old family home and is buried in the family cemetery on the farm. His grandson, Col. Sam W. Smith lives in M'boro.
4. John L. Smith, a successful Smyrna businessman and a bachelor most of his live.
5. Thomas E. Smith, Sr. married Jennie Vawter, the daughter of America Smith Blackman Vawter. They owned a farm on Stewarts Creek and operated a sawmill on his farm. T. E. Smith III lives on this farm.
6. Anne, the only daughter, married Thomas Jefferson Batey and lived on Stewarts Creek. She died in 1905. Love Hackney lives in their old home. Their son, J. C. Batey married Mary Anna Blackman in 1897.

In the early 1800's Hudsons, Rowletts, Garvins, and Beasleys settled in the small valley N.W. of Browns Chapel Church. They lived in log homes and owned small farms. At one time three small stores were owned and operated by the Rowletts and Hudsons. Some of these early settlers were skilled carpenters and rock masons. Rube Hudson was known for making very good chimneys. Many of the women made beautiful cut work, embroidery, knitting and crochet. This small valley at the foot of the hill here was called Rowlett Town. Descendants of the Rowletts still live at the site of one of the old homes.

BLACKMAN SCHOOLS

In the early 1870's some of the children here rode their horses to a small one room school that was located on the Vaughn Road. The Jordan School was probably the first public school in the Blackman Community. From 1876 to 1903 Browns Chapel Church was used as a public school. Blanche Bass, the daughter of James J. Bass, taught at Browns Chapel. Blackman Academy, built in the late 1800's was a two room-two teacher school. Grades one to eight were taught here. It was located where the Blackman Community Club now stands. Dr. Reads daughter and Dr. Manson's granddaughter taught at Blackman for several years. On March 13, 1913 the building was completely blown away. Ada Beesley, the teacher and five children were in the building and were blown into the field and yard. They were Ada Beesley, Nannie and Gracie Fann, Dewitt Bridges, Julia Harding and Mattie Bell Harding. A new school was built on the J. C. Batey farm in 1913. It was also a two room school with two cloak rooms and two porches. In 1939 the school was closed and the children were taken to Crichlow School in M'boro. by bus. Members of the Church of Christ purchased the building and it was used as a church until their new brick church was erected recently.

DOCTORS

The five doctors who practiced medicine here were much loved in this community. It is regrettable that there is so little known about these men. No written records have been found.

1. Dr. John Richardson lived near the Nashville Turnpike and practiced medicine in the Blackman Community in the early 1800's. His home was on the Shirley Road. The house burned in the early 1930's. His son, Judge John Richardson, was a well known judge and lawyer. His home was next door to the First Presbyterian Church in M'boro. Dr. Richardson died Nov. 19, 1872.
2. Dr. Rafe Hall and Dr. J. J. Rucker had attended medical school together and set-up practice in an old log house where Frank Snell now resides. Later Dr. Rucker married and moved to Marymont on Rucker Lane. The office he built still stands in the front yard at Marymont.
3. Dr. Hall lived on Burnt Knob near the foot of the hill between the present Snell home and the hill. His wife was Betty Blackman, the daughter of Lazarus Blackman. Their daughter, Mattie Hall, married Will Harding. They lived on Burnt Knob Road and owned the Frank Snell farm. ~~Their old home burned.~~ Dr. Hall died in 1897 and his old home burned soon after his death. Mattie Bell Harding Johnson, a granddaughter of Dr. Hall lives in M'boro.
4. Dr. James E. Manson also practiced medicine in the Blackman Community. He lived in the two-story house just north of the store at Blackman. This house was built by James Bass, Sr., one of the first settlers here. At this time the old house is being restored to its original form by one of James Bass' great, great, great grandsons. Dr. James Edward Manson was born in Brunswick Co., Va. June 29, 1823, married Ann Crockett Jan 30, 1844 and died Jan. 6, 1888. His obituary reads in part: "Dr. Manson naturally drew people to love him. He was amiable, kind and the highest type Christian gentleman. Perhaps no physician in the county did more for the poor than Dr. Manson. He rode through all sorts of weather to relieve the afflicted." Dr. Manson's Jim Eddie Manson, Jr. owned and operated the Bascom Williamson farm on the Manson Pike for many years. The old house was razed and a new brick house was built at this site. Two of Dr. Manson's great, great grandsons are fine young doctors. One of them lives in California. Dr. Manson's daughter, Kitty Manson, married James W. Bass' son Thomas Bass. Their daughter was Annie May Bass Lane, the mother of Avent, Thomas and Robert Lane.
5. Dr. Robert W. Read was a doctor in this community for many years and lived in the Douglas McDonald house. The small building in the yard was his office. He owned the first automobile at Blackman. A few years before his death he sold his farm here and moved to M'boro where he died on Nov. 19, 1918. He was born Oct. 1, 1850. His daughter, Miss Anna Read, taught the lower grades at Blackman Academy in the early 1900's. His grandson is a very successful businessman and lives in Franklin, Tenn.

CHURCHES

On August 8, 1805, about a year after the Beesleys came here from N.C. they met with people from other areas and organized the Overall Primitive Baptist Church, the name being changed later to Beesley Church. Elder John Beesley was the first pastor. The land

on which the church was built was given by Solomon Beesley, a son of Elder John Beesley, a part of this farm is now owned and operated by his great, great, grandchildren. The first church building was constructed of rough hewn logs. A few years later it was torn down and a frame building was erected and it burned in 1856. A brick building was erected and it was destroyed by the cyclone the afternoon of March 13, 1913 and soon afterward the present brick building was erected. During the Civil War, the building with a very few others stood through those years of fighting and destruction while others burned. Although it was used as headquarters for Union officers not so much as a Bible or hymn book were touched. Elder John Beesley served as pastor from 1805 to 1818 when he died. Elder Peyton Smith was then called to the care of the church and served as pastor from 1818 until 1827, when he, with fifty-four other members, gave up the Baptist doctrine for another. At this time there were one hundred and fifty-four members, including the slaves, who at that time, had no church apart from their masters. After Elder Smith, Elder Fuquay served the church until 1841, and then Dr. Watson took charge and served until he died in 1866.

There were two Methodist churches in the Blackman community at one time.

1. Brown's Chapel Church was built on land given by Alfred Watson Blackman in 1876 and made of lumber grown on his farm. There were many people living on very small farms near by that needed a church. Allison Brown was the first pastor so the church was called Brown's Chapel. From 1876 to 1903 it was used as a public school and a church. From 1900 to 1923 services by the Methodist were discontinued and other denominations used it. In 1923 the church was put on the Stones River Circuit again and used as a Methodist church until Oct. 1961, when the members built a new church on the Manson Pike. The old building was used as a store from 1966-1974.

From Trustee's report to the Quarterly Conference:

Brown's Chapel is a rather small frame church in only tolerably good repair. It is properly deeded and is worth about \$500.00
July 11, 1896
Thomas Bass.

Peter Rowlett, a class leader and a steward, died in the faith Dec. 1900. Lucy & Susie Rowlett baptized in 1891.

2. Asbury Church was located on Asbury Road just in front of the M. H. Sikes farm and was named in honor of Bishop Asbury who preached in this area during the time of the War of 1812. It was built in the early 1890's and was a very active church until many of its members decided to attend church in M'boro and it was sold and torn down. There are records from 1890-1921. Francis Whitney Washington was one of the trustees and made the following report to the Quarterly Conference on July 11, 1896: "Asbury is a large frame church with a basement. It is deeded to the M.E. church S. and is worth about \$1500.00. It is in tolerably good repair and will seat about four hundred people. Some of the church members in 1890's were: F. W. Washington, J. E. Manson, R. W. Read, Flemmon Hall, T. E. Hord, Patterson S. Miles, Wm. Beesley, A. L. Bass, Mrs. Emma Smith, Sally Bass, Eliza Bass, Bess Blackman, Lilian Blackman, Mary Huddleston, W. I. Gresham, Guy Bagwell, Selphs, Bateys, Christophers.

Early Presiding Elders were: T. L. Moody, 1890; Green C. Jackson, 1894; J. A. Oman, 1895; A. C. Covey, 1900.

Pastors were: W. T. Haggard, 1890; S. L. Fair, 1891;
M. J. Mabry, 1894; J. W. Cullom, 1895; O. P. Hill, 1899;
J. K. Lee, 1907.

Reports to Quarterly Conference:

1. The name of Flemmon Hall was called and his character passed. 1897
2. Peter Rowlett, a class leader and a steward died in the faith. Dec. 1900
3. Mrs. Ella Gresham Blackman, Feb. 16, 1907, departed this life with a bright evidence of a glorious victory over death and a triumphant entry into life eternal and sister Eliza Bass fell to sleep in Jesus on March 1901 in great peace. Our people still die well.
4. Pastor's pantry has been kindly & bountifully remembered for which we give thanks.
5. Frances Whitney Washington departed this life at his home four miles from M'boro, Nov. 9, 1908. Age 80 yrs. 7 mo. 5 days.
6. No special collections have been taken for education, but the regular assessment is being provided. One student attended Belmont College, Seven Soule College. There are eight public schools in the bounds of the charge. May 1908.

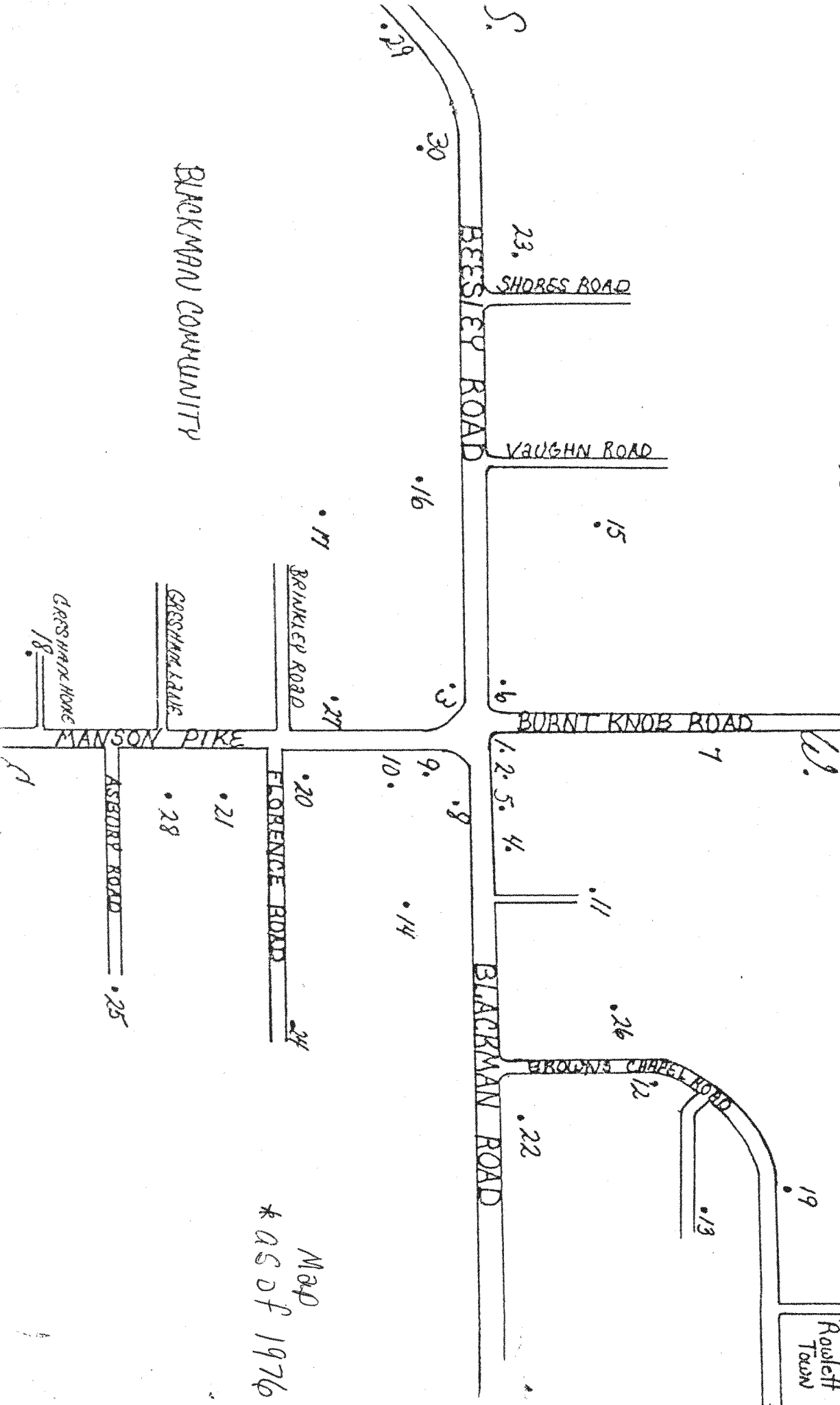
Lillard's Chapel United Methodist Church has been a church for black people in this area for many years. It was repaired recently and is an active church. For many years it was the only black church in the community.

The Baptist have a church here now.

Compiled by:

Mrs. Bessie Lee Batey Haynes
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
November 1976

- 1 Site of old store & post office
- 2 Site of commercial scales
- 3 Site of Alfred Blackman's blacksmith shop
- 4 Home of James Bass (1807-1826)
- 5 Site of blacksmith shop no. 2
- 6 Home of Dr. Robert W. Reed
- 7 Site of home of Dr. Rafe Hall
- 8 Dr. Manson's Nursery
- 9 Site of the second store
- 10 Site of Sam Reed's home early 1900's
- 11 Site of Sam Walters home
- 12 Old Sam Buchanan home
- 13 Site of old James Q. Bass home
- 14 Alfred W. Blackman's home (1877-1915)
- 15 House Cemetery
- 16 Blackman Cemetery no. 2.
- 17 Site of Hooper Blackman home
- 18 Blackman Cemetery no. 3
- 19 Site of A. G. Gresham home
- 20 Brown's Chapel Church
- 21 Site of Blackman Academy
- 22 Site of Lazarus (lad) Blackman's home
- 23 Blackman School (1913-1939)
- 24 Henry Grand Beesley home
- 25 Blackman's Hall Cemetery
- 26 Asbury Church
- 27 Bass Cemetery
- 28 Ed Smith's home
- 29 Springfield Washington home
- 30 Frank Beesley's home
- 31 Beesley church



BLACKMAN COMMUNITY

Map
* AS OF 1976

Roulett
Town

- 1 Site of old store & post office
- 2 Site of commercial scales
- 3 Site of Alfred Blackman's blacksmith shop
- 4 Home of James Bass (1807-1826)
- 5 Site of blacksmith shop no. 2
- 6 Home of Dr. Robert W. Peard
- 7 Site of home of Dr. Kate Hall
- 8 Dr. Manson's Nursery
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- 0 Site of Sam Rank's home early 1900's

- 10 Site of Wiggins' home
- 11 Old Sam Buckman's home
- 12 Site of old James Q. Bass home
- 13 Alfred W. Blackman's home (1877-1915)
- 14 House Cemetery
- 15 Blackman Cemetery no. 2.
- 16 Site of Horace Blackman home
- 17 Blackman Cemetery no. 3
- 18 Site of A.G. Grassham home
- 19 Brown's Chapel Church
- 20 Site of Blackman Academy

- 21 Blackman
- 22 Henry Bass
- 23 Blackman
- 24 Bass
- 25 Bass
- 26 Bass
- 27 Bob Smith
- 28 Springfield
- 29 Frank Bass
- 30 Beechler

