

The story is presented here, exactly as handwritten in the late 1920s, so that you, too, can read this 60-year-old manuscript. It has been confirmed that the basic information contained in the document is correct. Details have not been confirmed. Following is the 60-year-old report.



FEEL BETWEEN HAMILTON AND BERR

*By Author Unknown*

It happened over 100 years ago, to be more exact, in 1826. Mr. Wm. Currey, a Democrat appointed postmaster at Nashville under the administration of President Jefferson, had held the office since 1802, a period of 24 years. (This is the only error detected in the manuscript. Robert B. Currey was appointed postmaster in 1811. The next postmaster of Nashville, John P. Erwin, was appointed in 1826, according to official records.)

Politics in those days were not well defined, so far as party lines were concerned, until the defeat of Gen. Andrew Jackson, the commoner, by John Quincy Adams, the aristocrat, in 1824.

In that election, Mr. Jackson had received a plurality but not a majority of the electors, and as there were four candidates, Jackson [had] 90 electors, Adams 84, Crawford 41 and Clay 37. None having polled a majority, the election according to the constitution went to the House of Representatives for a decision, and Mr. Adams was chosen. It was charged that Clay supported Adams, after the latter had promised to name Clay Secretary of State. This was denied by Clay, but a bitter feud between Jackson and Clay resulted, for Clay did receive the appointment.

Democracy, the political brain child of Thomas Jefferson, had reached it political majority and Andrew Jackson, wise, sagacious, prudent leader and teacher, was now to personify the new party, and Moses-like to lead the children of America into the promised land of fair-and-square administration of government.

Mr. Henry Clay, Republican (later Whig) of Kentucky, three times a defeated candidate for the presidency, was a political enemy of both Mr. Jackson and his party. Clay's desire for the presidency caused him to seek out and secure every political advantage.

The Nashville Post Office, considered a strategic political point in Tennessee, was held by a Democrat and henchman of Mr. Jackson. This stronghold must be secured and held by a partisan of Mr. Clay's, hence his selection of a man for the place named John P. Erwin, a Whig citizen of Nashville and his (Mr. Clay's) son-in-law.

"Look out, Sam," says Mr. Jackson to Mr. Sam Houston, Congressman from Nashville, "or that damned Clay will catch you swimming and steal your duds."

Mr. Jackson was busy with men and measures preparing for his political battle for the presidency in

of such but that complts and defts are her only heirs at law and distributees and derive their heirship as follows. Complts John Reaves and James V. Reaves are her brothers. A.M. Reaves & F.J. Reaves are children of Joseph A. Reaves who was also a brother but is now dead. Mary A Greer is a daughter of L.J. Reaves who was a son of the said Joseph A. but who is now dead. She has intermarried with complt L.C. Greer. Mary M. Davis and Alabama V. Davis are children of R.A. Reaves who is now dead and who was also a brother of the said Margaret. Clara C. Reaves James M. Reaves Paul F. Reaves and Jno. D. Reaves are also children of the said R.A. Reaves. Alabama C. Hassell and Wm J. Reaves are children of Wm R. Reaves who was also a brother of the said Margaret but who is now dead. All the aforesaid are complts and are of lawful age. The following are all the defts and they are all under twenty-one years of age and have no regular guardian: Malinda P. Brown Thomas B Reaves Joseph L. Reaves Ella J. Reaves and Fannie C. Reaves These defendants are also children of the above names Wm R. Reaves.

Complts show that said land now belongs to them and to said defts and that the same is so situated as not to be susceptible of partition in kind amongst complts. and defts. and it cannot be so partitioned without great and manifest injury to the interest of all said parties but that it is manifestly to the best interest of all parties concerned to sell the same for division of the proceeds amongst the complts and defts. and this is the object of this petition.

To the end therefore that justice may be done complts. pray that the parties would as defendants be made such that they have copy & spa and that a guardian ad litem be appointed to answer and defend for them. Let this cause be referred to the clerk to take proof and report whether said land can be partitioned amongst the complts. and defendants or whether it is to their interest to sell the same for division of proceeds. Let a decree be made ordering a sale of said land and directing the payments of the proceeds to those entitled.

Complts finally pray for general relief.  
I am complts security for costs. J.W. Judd. ||

J.W. Judd, Solr for Complts.

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## Postal History

### *The Legend of Sam Houston and the Postmaster Duel*

Contributed by Genella Olker'

#### *Prologue*

The following story, written by an unknown author about 1927, tells the political situation 100 years earlier, leading to a pistol duel between Nashville's congressman, Sam Houston, and an Army general over appointment of Nashville's postmaster in 1826.

The manuscript was handwritten in pencil on the backs of old postal forms dated 1924 and prepared for the signature of then Nashville Postmaster W.J. O'Callaghan. It is yellowed and tattered now but easily readable.

The manuscript was written when Nashville's Main Post Office was located in the Customs House at 701 Broadway. Old files were moved to the Depression-era post office completed in 1934 at 901 Broadway.<sup>2</sup> When the new Nashville General Mail Facility was occupied in April 1987 at 525 Royal Parkway near Nashville International Airport, the files were moved again to that location. A recent review for historical purposes uncovered the manuscript.

Sam Houston, one and the same, later headed west from Tennessee to become the President of the Republic of Texas in 1836.

more Litigation the Land had better be rented for another year I stated above to have it sold on time You Put the time so as to make the Land bring all it will, it would be best to have Interes from date if you think it would not Damage the sale of it.

Respectfully, John Reaves

[page4] When you get the order for sale Let me know the time so some of us can attend the sale if it suits you have it sold on the Premises that if you think it will Bring any more by selling if on the Premises. JR

Seven days after the letter is dated, the original bill of complaint was filed in court by the attorney J. W. Judd.

To the worshipful county court of Robertson County setting at Springfield Tenn.<sup>3</sup>

The bill of complaint of John Reaves of Hickman county Tenn. James V. Reaves of Murry County Tenn. A.M. Reaves F.J. Reaves Mary A. Greer and husband L.C. Greer of Hickman County Tenn.

Mary M. Davis & husband F.H. Davis Alabama V. Davis and husband C.H. David Clara C. Reaves James M. Reaves Paul F. Reaves & John D. Reaves also of Hickman County Tenn. Alabama C. Hassell & husband Anderson Hassell of Benton County Tenn & William J. Reaves of Murry County Tenn. Complts

vs

Malinda P. Brown & husband Winfield Brown Thomas B. Reaves Joseph L. Reaves Eller J. Reaves and Fannie C. Reaves all of Maury County Tenn. Defendants

Your complts would most respectfully show unto the court that some twelve years since one Lemuel Ayers died at his residence in Robertson County Tennessee having first made and published his last will and testament which was duly probated in the Robertson County court.

By said will he devised to his wife Margarett A. Ayers all his property both real and personal and she took possession of the same and about two years since she died in this county intestate and one Thos J. Ayers is her duly qualified admn. She left at her death a tract of about 260 acres of land lying in the 8th civil district of Robertson County Tennessee and adjoining the lands of G.A. Washington, John Byrns & Wm Adams & probably others. It is the same land upon which she the said Margarett lived and died and the same devised to her by her said husbands will before mentioned.

Complts show the court that the maiden name of the said Margarett A. Ayres was Reaves and that she left neither children nor the descendants

<sup>3</sup> Original Bill of Complaint, filed 24 Sept 1879, *John Reaves et al vs. Thomas B. Reaves et al*, Robertson County Tennessee, County Court Loose Originals, Robertson County [Tenn.] Archives, Springfield, Tenn.

Heirs of Margaret Ayers  
*a summary*

Brothers:

John Reaves  
James V. Reaves  
R.A. Reaves, deceased  
Wm. R. Reaves, deceased  
Joseph A. Reaves, deceased

Children of R.A. Reaves:

Mary M. Davis  
Alabama V. David  
Clara C. Reaves  
James M. Reaves  
Paul F. Reaves  
John D. Reaves

Children of Wm. R. Reaves:

Alabama Hassell  
Wm. J. Reaves  
Malinda Brown  
Thomas B. Reaves  
Joseph L. Reaves  
Ellen J. Reaves  
Fanny C. Reaves

Children of Jos. A. Reaves:

A.M. Reaves  
F.J. Reaves  
Mary A. Greer (granddaughter)

## Heirs of Margaret Reaves Ayers, 1879

### Reaves family of Hickman, Williamson, Maury and Benton Counties

Contributed by Mark Lowe

Thomas Jefferson Ayres was a Civil War veteran and a storekeeper from Cedar Hill, Tennessee. Ayers served as the administrator of the estate of Margaret Ayers, the wife of Lemuel Ayres. Further examination of the estate records of Lemuel and Margaret (Peggy) Ayres, disclose that Lemuel was the son of Henry and Susanna Ayres. Henry was a Revolutionary War soldier who died in Robertson County.<sup>1</sup>

In a subsequent case in county court, the heirs of Margaret Ayres, deceased, requested that the lands belonging to her estate be sold and divided amongst the heirs. In the following documents taken from the case files, we find her heirs are living in Benton, Hickman, Maury and Williamson counties. One other lesson to be learned from these records is that no party to this case lived in Robertson County.

The land mentioned in this consisted of 259.75 acres. It was sold for \$2060 to George A. Washington and became part of the Wessington Estate near Cedar Hill.

Lick Creek Sept 17th 1879<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Judd Dear Sir

I have been some time answering Your letter but have been getting the names of the Parties interested. I will give my name first as I am oldest John Reaves Brother to Margart Ayres Deces James V. Reaves Brother to Margart Ayres Decst he Lives in Maury Co Tenn Columbia P.O. Joseph A Reaves Decs Leaving heirs I ill give their names Mary A Greer Daughter of L.J. Reaves Deces son of J.A. Reaves Decd and since intermarried with L.C. Greer all over 21 one years of age and residents of Hickman Co Tenn

[page 2] Names of the children of R.A. Reaves Decst Brother to Margart Ayres Decsd Mary M Davis wife of F.H. Davis Alabama V David wife of C.H. David of Williamson Co Tenn Leipers Fork P.O. Clara C. Reaves James M Reaves Paul F Reaves & John D Reaves of Hickman Co Tenn Centerville P.O. all over 21 years of age

Names of the children of William R Reaves Decest Brother to Margart Ayres Decst Alabama C Hassell wife of Anderson Hassell Benton Co Tenn Danville P.O. William J. Reaves Maury Co Tenn Water Vally P.O.

the Balance of Wm R Reaves' Children are minors and have no Guardian. Malinda P Brown wife of Winfield Brown Thomas B. Reaves Joseph .L.Reaves, Ella.J.Reaves & Fanny C Reaves all of Maury

[page 3] Co Tenn Water Vally P.O.

This is the names & residence of all the Parties interested if you need any more information write to me & I will send it to you. Put all the Parties in the Petition Except the Minors have it sold on time,

<sup>1</sup> Original Bill of Complaint, filed 4 July 1878, *W.W. Ayres, administrator of Henry Ayres, decd and Susana Ayres, decd. vs. T.J. Ayres, administrator of Margaret Ayres, decd*, Robertson County, Tenn. Chancery Court Loose Originals, Case #1197, Robertson County Archives, Springfield, Tenn.

<sup>2</sup> Original Bill of Complaint, filed 4 July 1878, *W.W. Ayres, administrator of Henry Ayres, decd and Susana Ayres, decd. vs. T.J. Ayres, administrator of Margaret Ayres, decd*, Robertson County, Tenn. Chancery Court Loose Originals, Case #1197, Robertson County Archives, Springfield, Tenn.



Henry Ayers  
Sgt., Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Apr 30 to Aug 31, 1862.

Present or absent Absent

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks: Absent without leave by  
Order of Lt. J. S. Stanton  
See War, Aug 18/62

Book mark :

F. J. Clarke  
(868) Copyist.

Henry Ayers  
Sgt., Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Sept & Oct, 1862.

Present or absent

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks: Discharged Sept 1/62 at  
Columbus

Book mark :

F. J. Clarke  
(868) Copyist.

Henry Ayers  
Pvt., Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on Returns as follows:

June to Aug 1862:  
Absent on sick furlough  
June 25. 30 days furl.  
Columbus, Ohio.  
Sept 1862: Dischd Sep 15.  
Columbus.

Book mark :

M. H. Whittam  
(868) Copyist.

Henry Ayers  
Sergeant, Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Age 28 years.

Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll, dated

Huntsville, Ala. Jan. 1. 6., 1865.

Muster-out to date ..... 186

Last paid to ..... 186

Clothing account:

Last settled ..... 186 ; drawn since \$ ..... 100

Due soldier \$ ..... 100 ; due U. S. \$ ..... 100

Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$ ..... 100

Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$ ..... 100

Bounty paid \$ ..... 100 ; due \$ ..... 100

Remarks:

Discharged Sept. 1. 1862. at Columbus  
Ohio for disability.

Book mark :

Maher  
(861) Copyist.

a | 71 | Ohio.

Henry Myers  
Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
**Company Descriptive Book**

of the organization named above.

**DESCRIPTION.**

Age 28 years; height 5 feet 10 inches.  
Complexion Ruddy  
Eyes Blue; hair Brown  
Where born Richland Co Ohio  
Occupation Farmer

**ENLISTMENT.**

When Dec 17, 1861.  
Where Wapakoneta  
By whom G. W. Moody; term 3 y'rs.  
Remarks: Made Sgt Dec 28 -  
changed Sept 1/62  
Capt Dec

(858g)

Copyist.

a | 71 | Ohio.

Henry Myers  
4th Sgt, Capt. Moody's Co., 71 Reg't Ohio Inf.\*

Age 28 years.  
Appears on  
**Company Muster-in Roll**

of the organization named above. Roll dated

Jan 10, 1862.  
Muster-in to date Dec 17, 1861.  
Joined for duty and enrolled into the Service  
of the Inf.  
When Dec 17, 1861.  
Where Wapakoneta  
Period 3 years.

Bounty paid \$ 100; due \$ 100  
Remarks: appointed 4th Sgt Dec 28, 61

\*This organization subsequently became Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Inf.

Book mark:

(856)

Copyist.

A | 71 | Ohio.

Henry Myers  
Sergeant, Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on  
**Company Muster Roll**

for Enlistment to April 30, 1862.

Present or absent present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks:  
Mustered in as Pvt  
appointed sergt Dec 28 -  
28 - 1861

From Second Auditor's Roll.

Book mark:

(858)

Copyist.

a | 71 | Ohio.

Henry Myers  
Sgt, Co. G, 71 Reg't Ohio Infantry.

Appears on **Special Muster Roll**

for Aug 18, 1862, 1862.

Present or absent

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Remarks: Just out Sick furlough  
and is on his way back

Book mark:

(859)

Copyist.



# ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

Form 12.



M. D.

## CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY FOR DISCHARGE.

*(To be used, in duplicate, in all cases of discharge on account of disability.)*

*Moody*  
*A. S. I.*  
*71<sup>st</sup>*  
 the *71<sup>st</sup>* Company, ( *9* ) of the *Henry Ayres* of Captain *J. W.*  
 was enlisted by *Capt J. W. Moody* Regiment of United States  
 the *71<sup>st</sup>* Regiment of *O. V. I.* at *Wapakonetta, Ohio* of  
 on the *17<sup>th</sup>* day of *December* 1861, to serve *3* years; he was born  
 in *Richland County* in the State of *Ohio* in *28*  
 years of age, *5* feet *14* inches high, *rudy* complexion, *blue* eyes,  
*Brown* hair, and by occupation when enlisted a *Farmer*. During the last two  
 months said soldier has been unfit for duty *1* days. *(Here consult directions on Form 12, page 270, Medical Dept. Gen. Reg.)*

*He is this day discharged by reason of*  
 STATION *Capt and Genl order No. 36-1862* *Respiratory*  
 DATE: *30<sup>th</sup> Aug 1862* *A. B. Dood*  
*Capt 15<sup>th</sup> Regt*  
*Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Regt*  
*Wilcox*

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said *Henry Ayres* of  
 Captain *John W. Moody's* Company, *9<sup>th</sup>* of *71<sup>st</sup>* Regiment *O. V. I.*  
 and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of *"Arthritis Pulmonalis"*  
*(Here consult par. 1134, p. 245, and directions on Form 12, page 290, Med. Dept. Gen. Reg. State the disease of Soldier.)*

*which is hereditary, (his mother being consumptive & died with it)*  
*& since his furlough expired, he has not been able to travel.*

That in my opinion he will not be fit for military duty for *Life* and that he is not able to travel to Columbus,  
 or Cincinnati, Ohio. *John A. Nichols* Surgeon.

DISCHARGED, this

*30<sup>th</sup>* day of *August* 1862 at *Cincinnati, O.*  
*A. B. Dood*  
*Capt 15<sup>th</sup> Regt*  
*Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Regt*  
*Wilcox*

NOTE 1.—When a probable case for pension, special care must be taken to state the degree of disability.  
 NOTE 2.—The place where the soldier desires to be addressed may be here added.

Town—

County—

State—

(DUPLICATES.)



Previous number.

67a 63

*Cyprus Henry*

Co. E, 71 Ohio Infantry.

*Sergeant Sergeant*

CARD NUMBERS.

1	23991195	26
2	23991306	27
3	23991414	28
4	23991506	29
5	23991585	30
6	23992858	31
7	34185668	32
8	40213092	33
9		34
10		35
11		36
12		37
13		38
14		39
15		40
16		41
17		42
18		43
19		44
20		45
21		46
22		47
23		48
24		49
25		50

Number of personal papers herein *2*

Book Mark:

See also

Ayers, Hamilton P.

Co. D

. 105 Ohio Infantry.

Pat. Pat.

See also

GENERAL INDEX CARD.

This card must not be taken from the file.

Ayers, Henry

Co. G

. 71 Ohio Infantry.

Sgt. Sgt.

See also

GENERAL INDEX CARD.

This card must not be taken from the file.