

# Family of Hardin Perkins BOSTICK

## First Generation

1. **Hardin Perkins BOSTICK** was born 30 Dec 1804 in Stokes County, NC. He died 22 Feb 1861 in Nashville, TN.

The book, "Old Enough To Die", by Ridley Wills, II., is about the family of Hardin Perkins BOSTICK. Ridley Wills II is married to Irene Jackson, a descendant of this family. I can heartily recommend the book~!vsm Portions of it will be quoted in the notes of this line of our family.

"Hardin and Margaret Litton Bostick's home, where they were living in 1860 with five of their children - Abe, Catharine, Eliza, Mag and Susan - along with three Halbert grandchildren - was on the north side of the Charlotte Pike between Bostick and Robertson Streets and about a mile west of Nashville's public square. It was a handsome, two-story brick house with an attic and wooden shingle roof." Living near them were Margaret Litton Bostick's sisters, Ann (Litton) Cooper and Elizabeth (Litton) Thomas. The three Litton sisters homes stood on large lots facing a commons area across the turnpike. Ann's husband was Washington B. Cooper; one son, James Litton "Jim" Cooper, would become one of five first cousins connected with the Twentieth Tennessee Infantry during the Civil War, and was a famous Nashville artist. Elizabeth Litton Thomas' husband was Jesse Thomas, a U.S. Collector of Internal Revenue in Nashville; they had 8 children, and their oldest son, James "Jim" Thomas, was another of the five cousins. (see Margaret's notes)

"...Hardin Perkins Bostick was born in Stokes County, NC..... His parents, John and Mary Jarvis Bostick had moved there from Pittsylvania County, Virginia in 1778 or 1779 when Stokes County was still part of Surry County. After moving from Stokes County to near Hardeman Cross Roads, TN., with his parents and siblings in 1809, Hardin attended the Harpeth Union Male Academy and King's Chapel Methodist Church.

"At the time of his marriage to Margaret Litton, in 1824, Hardin was living in Franklin where he had just opened a general store. During their early years of marriage, he was an active mason and, for two years, Franklin's town recorder. In the early 1830's, Hardin and several other Franklin men successfully petitioned the State Legislature to open a bank branch there. The Union Bank of the State of Tennessee opened in 1833."

"Later in the decade, the Bosticks moved to Hardeman Cross Roads, where Hardin grew up. There he operated a general store and a 175 Acre farm with the help of 7 slaves. He, Margaret, and their children lived in a house on a separate seven acre tract." He speculated in land. In 1842 he bought the 45 acres of land on the Charlotte Turnpike where he and Margaret built their home. There his younger children grew up playing with their Cooper and Thomas first cousins, sometimes in Lick Branch, a creek that crossed the Charlotte Pike at the foot of the hill toward town...."

He suffered financial reverses in the late 1850's, but was practicing law with his oldest son, J. Litton Bostick, in 1860 on North Cherry Street. He died February 22, 1861, at the age of 56. "His funeral was held two days later at his home on the Charlotte Pike. The Daily Nashville Patriot reported that he died of typhoid fever after an illness of four weeks."

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### History and Genealogy

Manuscripts > Guide to Manuscripts Materials at TSLA >  
Microfilm Part 16 (MF. 1500 - MF. 1599)

Mf. 1514 -- Bostick Family Papers, 1834-1870. 73 items. TSLA. 1 reel. 35 mm.

Correspondence between members of the Bostick family of Davidson County. The head of the family was Hardin Derkins Bostick and his wife was Margaret Litton Bostick. Most of the correspondence centers around the Civil War activities of the Bostick sons: Abe, J. Litton, and Thomas H. Bostick. Two of them were killed during the war, and the letters home convey quite vividly the personal tragedy engendered by the war.

Hardin married **Margaret Rebecca LITTON**. Margaret died 1897 in Nashville, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

"Margaret Litton Bostick's parents, Catherine and Joseph L. Litton, were natives of Ireland. In 1817, they left a comfortable life in Dublin to emigrate to the United States, arriving at the Port of Philadelphia. The following spring, they moved to Nashville, where they joined McKendree Methodist Church and became steadfast and valuable members."

"Margaret Litton Bostick had six siblings who did not live in the compound on the Charlotte Pike. A third sister, Susan, was married to James C. Robinson." They lived in Williamson County on a plantation known as "Blue Springs Farm", a 550 acre farm on the bend of the Harpeth River off the Natchez Road. Margaret's brother was Isaac "Ike" Litton, a well known treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. Nashville's Isaac Litton High School was named for him. Ike and his family lived three miles north of town on the Gallatin Pike. His son, George Litton, served in Tyler's Brigade of Hood's Army of TN. Margaret's oldest brother, Benjamin, was a "wealthy Davidson County farmer." His home, Litton Place, was where Vanderbilt University is today. His daughter, Jane Litton Taylor, sold the farm to Vanderbilt in 1873 following her father's death." "Margaret's brother, Abram, was a college professor, first at the University of Nashville and later at St. Louis University's Medical Department where his nephew Joe Bostick studied. Margaret's two other brothers, Joseph Jr and Jacob, died relatively early."

Nashville fell in late February, 1862. "In the summer of 1862, Margaret Bostick, having moved the previous winter, was living in a smaller house in town with her widowed daughter, Catherine Halbert, Catherine's children, and her youngest daughter Susan, then sixteen. Margaret's sister, Elizabeth Litton Thomas and brother, Ike, had gone to Marietta, GA where the two "families crowded together in a small house."

They had the following children:

- + 2 M i. **Capt. John LITTON BOSTICK C.S.A.** was born 6 May 1826 and died 1864.
- + 3 F ii. **Catherine Warren BOSTICK** was born 1828 and died 1916.
- + 4 F iii. **Mary Anne "May" BOSTICK** was born 1830 and died after 1907.
- + 5 M iv. **Dr./Maj. Joseph "Joe" BOSTICK C.S.A.** was born 1 Apr 1832 and died Dec 1886.
- + 6 M v. **Capt. Thomas Hardin BOSTICK** was born 1833 and died 1871.
- + 7 F vi. **Eliza Jane BOSTICK** was born 1836 and died 22 Oct 1905.
- 8 M vii. **Manoah BOSTICK (died young)** was born 1838 in Hardeman Cross Roads, TN. He died before 1850 in TN.
- 9 M viii. **Pvt. Abram "Abe" BOSTICK C.S.A.** was born<sup>1</sup> 18 Nov 1840 in Hardeman Cross Roads, TN. He died 1862 in Gaines Mill - Virginia from killed in battle, Civil War. and was buried in a churchyard NE of Richmond, VA.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

"Before his second birthday, his family moved to Nashville where he received his education in private schools and at the Western Military Institute of the University of Nashville. Abe was one of 8 young men who graduated from the military college in 1859." "Abe was a member of McKendree Methodist Church, where he worshipped regularly with his family and where, as a child, his Litton grandfather was a prominent layman." At the time of his graduation from college, "Abe stood 5'11" tall, had gray eyes, light hair and a fair complexion. That fall, when he began teaching in school in Nashville, he was viewed as an attractive and outgoing young man with a bright future....."

Abe Bostick enlisted on May 20, 1861, in Company C of the Twentieth Tennessee Regiment. Abe's letters home to his mother and sister are chronicled in the book. Among the last of his letters quoted was one written on March 17, 1862, from Fredericksburg, Virginia, to his mother. In it he states..."While the war lasts, I expect to be in the army; and should we be subjugated (I never entertain such an idea), I expect to [go] to some other country; for if my country is subject to the North, and I am spared to witness such degradation, we can go to

some other country where we can at least be free. I say we, I consider your and my destinities as one." His last letter was written from Richmond, Virginia, June 22nd, 1862.

E. L. F. McKenzie wrote to May Bostick of Abe's death, June 30th, 1862: "This note is to inform you of the death of your brother Abe who fell on the evening of [the] 27th while gallantly charging the enemy's fortifications with [the] 7th Tennessee Regt. The shot which proved fatal took effect just above his left knee passing through and cutting the artery. He might have been saved if he could have received attention at once but we were repulsed on the first charge and before we could rally and drive the enemy from his works he had expired from loss of blood.

"We dressed his remains and interred them at a church about ten miles NE from Richmond and have marked the place so that it may be easily found....." "....he was a brave and chivalrous soldier and fell while gaining a noble victory for the South."

A later letter was written by Eliza to her mother, stating that her husband was going to get Abe's body and bury it in their "family burying ground." It does not state whether they were able to accomplish this.

August, 1862, E. W. Sehon wrote to Margaret Litton Bostick, about Abe: "He was a good son, lovely and amiable and [in] every way a most useful citizen - with a bright future before him. He left all and went forth a brave and valiant soldier at the call of his suffering country - noble he bore himself - foregoing the comforts of home - enduring toil and labor he marched to his country's defense. In the unquestioned and inscrutable providence of God, he was doomed to fall but he fell at his post and fills a hero's place. His name is forever bound in the same bright volume of [the] fallen in which are preserved the names of all those who fell bravely fighting for their country's rights and liberty - and he fell too a Christian hero. He has fought the good fight - finished his course - and God has taken him home."

- + 10 F ix. **Margaret Rebecca "Mag" BOSTICK** was born 1842 and died 1911.
- 11 F x. **Susan BOSTICK** was born 1846 in Hardeman Cross Roads, TN. She died 1864 in Nashville, Davidson Co., Tennessee.

Source: "Old Enough To Die" Susan had "severe health problems". Died before the end of the War.

## Second Generation

- 2. **Capt. John LITTON BOSTICK C.S.A.** (Hardin Perkins) was born<sup>1</sup> 6 May 1826 in Williamson County, TN. He died 1864 in Georgia from wounds received in battle, Civil War. and was buried in Griffin, GA.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

"Litton was born on May 6, 1826 in Williamson County, TN, where his parents were living on a farm near Hardeman Cross Roads. Litton received his early education in private schools, one of which was Mrs. Ripley's School in Franklin. A good student, he went on to graduate from the University of Nashville in 1843 and from Harvard Law School four years later." Shortly after his graduate he traveled to California for the gold-rush, arriving June 1850 on the steamer "Tennessee." He stayed there for a few years before returning to Tennessee.

"J Litton Bostick was the last of the Bostick brothers to enlist under the Confederate banner. This was natural as he was the oldest of the brothers, having reached his 35th birthday in May 1861. His commitment to the Southern cause was every bit as intense as his brothers'. In November, the "Daily Nashville Patriot" announced that Litton and five other Tennesseans were named Confederate Commissioners, empowered to arrest all violators of C.S.A. laws.".... The fall of Nashville was eminent, and Bettie, in her ninth month of pregnancy, went south with their 3 children to be near her parents in Columbus, MS. The baby, a boy, was named Litton after his father, and was born on Feb. 18, two days after the fall of Fort Donelson.

"A day before the Battle of Shiloh, Litton stood on dress parade and listened to Albert Sidney Johnston's "Famous Battle Order." The Twentieth Tennessee took 380 men into the Battle at Pittsburg Landing. Of these, 159 were either killed or wounded." Litton survived. "In a history of the regiment, Litton was said to have "fought gallantly" despite almost no training." He regularly communicated with his family, and his letters are faithfully reproduced in the book.

In the summer of 1862, Litton was aide-de-camp to Gen. Liddell, commander of the Second Brigade of Pat Cleburne's Division near Readyville, and survived the fighting around Murfreesboro. Gen. Liddell wrote of Litton...that he "not only behaved with the most undaunted bravery, but assisted me voluntarily, and with the utmost alacrity, in pushing forward the brigade, in placing the battery in positions, and in the deployment of skirmishers in the very face of the enemy, and in the heaviest fire whenever required..." That winter, and the spring of 1863, Litton was "at Wartrace where Gen. Liddell established his headquarters." June 24th and 25th, 1862, his brigade was in the fighting at Liberty Gap.

Litton's unit was also at Chickamauga, and a few weeks after the battle, Gen. Liddell commented that "Lieut. J. L. Bostick, his aide-de-camp, and another staff officer "behaved with their usual gallantry and need no commendation at my hands." Then began the struggle around Chattanooga.

John Litton Bostick, (aged 35 - a "cousin" to my gg-grandfather, Manoah Bostick Hampton) .....while at his post on Missionary Ridge, October 26th, 1863, wrote this to his sister:

"I am sorry that you allow yourself to have the "blues" which you complain of having, in your letter. It is a disease, which like chills, will become chronic if allowed to continue unchecked. I have, in my younger days, sometimes indulged myself in gloomy dreams and fancies but I have quit the bad habit. I have suffered more intensely from the anticipation of evils that never came to pass, than I have ever from actual, real sorrows. I have learned that real happiness has its source in the heart and not in external circumstances. There are few afflictions to which mortals are ever prepared for which a health, Christian nature will not find consolation.

"Happiness is like the sunlight, free to all, high and low, rich and poor alike, and is only denied to those who willfully shut themselves up in the darkness. Have the blues no more. Turn your thoughts more upon the blessing which you have, rather than to those which you have not; never double sorrows by anticipating them but wait til they come upon you and then, forget them as soon as possible.

And finally he said: "These are the times, above all others, when the patriotic men and women of the South should cultivate a spirit of cheerfulness and contentment. The time will come when these will be looked back to as the heroic days of our country and it will be considered a proud privilege to have lived through the trials to which we are exposed."

Litton was wounded near Griffin, GA during the battle for Atlanta. He was shot through the right arm, the "ball passing into his body. It was cut out at his left shoulder blade. He was wounded July 21st, 1864. His brother, Tom, was with him when he died. Litton had been cared for in the home of Mrs. Mitchell, and waited on by her daughter, Mrs. M. W. Callaway, of Griffin. Tom wrote his mother that he "buried him in the grave yard at Griffin where none but officers from Tenn. are buried." He said that "he suffered but little considering the way he was wounded. He was conscious all the time and told me early in the morning he had to die. About ten minutes before he died, he called me to him and told me what disposition he wanted made of his property. His only regret at dying seemed to be the leaving of his "wife and little orphan boys." He said, "I feel I have done my duty. Oh God have mercy on my wife and little boys."

August, 1864, N. Green, Jr. wrote to Margaret Litton Bostick: "Allow me to say that among the officers of the army, I met none who combined more fully the high qualities of the soldier, scholar and gentleman than Capt. Litton Bostick. I admired him while living, and being dead I honor him. I expect to speak of his virtue and his courage and his fate to my children. Sweet be his rest among the sons of glory who have fallen in this struggle."

John married **Elizabeth C. "Bettie" TOPP** on 29 Oct 1854 in Columbus, MS. Elizabeth was born 1832. She died after 1909.

Bettie Topp's parents were Dr. and Mrs. William W. Topp, wealthy residents of Columbus, MS. Following their marriage they lived in Nashville, where Litton and Bently Halbert formed a law partnership at 45 North Cherry

Street. Bently Halbert died in 1858, but Litton continued to practice law with his father. "Litton and Bettie lived at 73 North Summer Street in the house he bought in 1855 or 1856. Their first child, William Thomas, was born about the same time. Three years later they had a second son, Hardin Perkins."

Bettie and the children stayed with her parents in Columbus, MS during the War. Mag and Mary Anne Bostick were nearby at Mr. Percival Halbert's.

They had the following children:

- 12 M i. **William Thomas "Willie" BOSTICK** was born about 1855/1856 in Nashville, TN.  
William married **Susie SMITH**.
  - 13 M ii. **Hardin Perkins "Hardie" BOSTICK** was born about 1858/1859 in Nashville, TN.
  - 14 M iii. **Joseph BOSTICK** was born 1860 in Nashville, TN.
  - 15 M iv. **John Litton (Jr.) BOSTICK** was born 18 Feb 1862 in West Point, MS. He died Aug 1865.
3. **Catherine Warren BOSTICK** (Hardin Perkins) was born 1828 in Williamson County, TN. She died 1916.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

By the time of the Civil War, Catherine was a widow and Nashville school teacher. "She and her children, Hardin, Mary, and Bently Jr., were living with the Bostick's in their large home on the Charlotte Turnpike."

Catherine, as the eldest Bostick daughter, "decided it was her duty to stay in Nashville with her mother, her own children, and her youngest sister, Susan. She did until the spring or early summer of 1863, when she, her mother, and her children either fled the city or were expelled by Federal authorities."

Catherine and her mother struggled together, during the War. In addition to themselves and Catherine's children, they took care of Susan, who had "chronic physical and mental problems". "They were dependent on Catherine's income from teaching school and whatever monies her brothers and sisters could periodically send them. They had only \$40 per month steady income....." "Catharine regularly went to the city's hospitals to nurse dozens of Confederate prisoners to whom she brought "food and good cheer." At some point, Federal authorities were sufficiently annoyed that they ordered the "great little Rebel" to stop nursing Confederate prisoners unless she agreed to give Federal wounded equal attention. Catherine did so but only to those Yankees who were too badly wounded to fight again."

Catherine married **John Bently HALBERT** on 9 Sep 1847. John died 1858 in Nashville, TN.

They had the following children:

- 16 M i. **Hardin Bostick "Hardie" HALBERT**.
  - 17 F ii. **Mary HALBERT**.  
Mary married (Mr.) **LEWIS of Nashville, TN**.
  - 18 M iii. **John Bently (Jr.) HALBERT** "Bently" died 1907.  
Bently married **Margaret Webb MOORE**.
  - 19 F iv. **Margaret HALBERT**.
4. **Mary Anne "May" BOSTICK** (Hardin Perkins) was born 1830 in Nashville, Davidson Co., Tennessee. She died after 1907.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

By 1858, Mary Anne Bostick Anderson "was living in Mobile with her husband, William J. Anderson, a fifty-year-old cotton broker, and their two children, Anne and Hardin, and her two stepchildren. Before moving to Mobile, Mary Anne and William, a native Virginian, had lived in Mississippi, where Hardin was born."

#### INTRODUCTION

The Bostick Family Papers, 1834-[1861-1864]-1870, were donated in July of 1996 by Irene Jackson Wills,

Granbery Jackson, and Ridley Wills II. The collection consists of 73 items, mostly correspondence, is housed in one archives box, and occupies 5 linear inches of shelf space. These documents are additions to, and replace, photocopies originally donated by the Wills' in February 1967, which comprised accession number 67-010, Bostick Papers, 1861-1864. With this new accession, the Bostick Papers collection, 1861-1864, accession number 67-010, has been dissolved. There are no restrictions on the collection, and single copies of the Bostick Family Papers may be made for scholarly research purposes.

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Bostick Family Papers, 1834-[1861-81641-1870, consisting of seventy-three (73) letters of correspondence (and some few telegrams) are centered mostly around the family's activities during the Civil War. The collection occupies one archives box and is arranged alphabetically by the writer's name, then chronologically. For most of the letters there is included a typed transcription which was donated earlier when photocopies of the letters were donated as accession number 67-010.

As reflected in these letters, the Bostick family apparently consisted of Hardin Perkins Bostick and his wife Margaret Litton Bostick; sons J. Litton Bostick, Abe Bostick, Thomas Hardin Bostick, and Joe Bostick; and daughters Mary Ann (Bostick) Anderson, Eliza Jane (Bostick) Early (wife of John F. Early), and Catherine (Bostick) Halbert (wife of Bently Halbert).

The collection's two earliest letters (dated 1834, 1841) are written by Hardin Perkins Bostick to his wife Margaret Litton Bostick. One other letter dated 1858 was also written by Bostick to his wife. Letters dated February 26, 1861 (folder 72) and May 7, 1861 (folder 70) from L.M. Shackelford and E.W. Sehon respectively, indicate that Hardin P. Bostick died in early 1861.

A series of six letters dated 1850 and 1853 (folders 24-29), recount a period of time that J. Litton Bostick spent as a miner and farmer in California.

The bulk of the letters (63 in number) is concentrated between 1861 and 1864, and most of these recount in some detail the experiences of the Bostick sons during the Civil War. The majority were written by Abe, J. Litton, and Thomas H. Bostick to their mother and sisters. J. Litton Bostick an officer, HQ, Liddell's Division, was wounded in battle on July 21, 1864, and later died on July 29, 1864; Abram (Abe) Bostick a Major, 7th Tennessee Infantry ("The Blues"), was killed in a fight near Richmond, June 28, 1862; Thomas Hardin Bostick, was a Captain, Co. K, 7th Tennessee Infantry ("The Blues"); and Joseph Bostick was a Major, 34th Tennessee Infantry. Apparently, brothers Thomas H. and Joe survived the hostilities. Letters from Col. John F. Goodner (folder 63) and E. L. F. McKenzie (folder 68) give added details concerning the death of Abe Bostick.

The latest letter, dated December 28, 1870 (folder 58) was written to the Rev. Thomas H. Early and signed by Hardin, Lila, and John Early, apparently the children and husband of Eliza Jane (Bostick) Early.

Mary married **William J. ANDERSON** on 1854. William was born 1810.

MARSHALL COUNTY, TN - COURT- Minutes Vol. A, 1836-1840

Ordered by the court that the hands of Thos. McREE Alexander FOSSETT, William BALDRIDGE & William J. ANDERSON be attached to Thos. McREES part of the road. Issued.

They had the following children:

- 20 F i. **Elizabeth "Anne" ANDERSON** "Anne".
  - 21 M ii. **Hardin Bostick "Hardie" ANDERSON** "Hardie" was born in Mississippi.
  - 22 M iii. **William "Willie" ANDERSON** "Willie".
5. **Dr./Maj. Joseph "Joe" BOSTICK C.S.A.** "Joe" (Hardin Perkins) was born<sup>1</sup> 1 Apr 1832 in Hardeman Cross Roads, TN. He died Dec 1886 in South Pittsburg, TN and was buried in City Cemetery, South Pittsburg, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

"Joe studied medicine at the Medical Department of St. Louis University, where his uncle, Abraham Litton, was on the faculty. Following graduation, the Hospital of the City of St. Louis admitted him "to the practice of this institution for one year. Toward the end of that academic year, Joe was uncertain whether to continue in medicine or go to the iron works on the Ohio River that his father had recently purchased."

"Three months after his brothers, Abe and Tom, and his brother-in-law, Will Hunt, joined the army, Dr. Joseph "Joe" Bostick set aside his medical practice in Marion County, TN, and organized a company of men from the Bridgeport area of adjoining Jackson County, Alabama, for service in the Confederate Army." Joe was elected

captain of Company A, "The Davis Guards." "His was one of ten companies mustered into Confederate service by Col. Wm. A. Chuchwell at Camp Sneed in Knoxville, TN on August 19, 1861. First known as the Fourth Confederate (Tennessee) Regiment, the unit's name was changed in November to the Thirty-Fourth Tennessee Regiment because another 4th TTN had already been organized in West TN. The new designation never attained general recognition, however."

Maj. Joe Bostick survived the battle at Franklin, staff officer for Maj. Gen. Cheatham. "Despite having scaled the Federal breastworks and fought hand-to-hand in the Federal trenches, Joe made in through the battle unscathed. Tom, who went into the fight as brigade commissary for Big. Gen. George Washington Gordon's Brigade in John Brown's Division, also survived, as did their cousin, Jim Cooper, and their brother-in-law, John F. Early. Jim Cooper did so despite suffering his fourth wound of the war."

"Joe and Tom's first cousins probably fought in the vicinity of Everbright, the palatial home of Rebecca Letitia Bostick on Carter's Creek Pike." Rebecca was the widow of their cousin, Richard W. H. Bostick. "During the battle, part of which took place at Everbright's doorstep, the Widow Bostick's wounded son, Cannon, slipped into the house and was successfully hidden by his mother.

Joe and Tom also survived the "decisive Battle of Nashville fought on December 15 and 16 (1864) a few miles south of city." They were "among the 1312 Tennesseans paroled at Greensboro, North Carolina on May 1, 1865. Both men returned to Tennessee, via Asheville, NC, and Greeneville, TN, to find their families and reassume their roles and husbands and fathers." Joe returned home to find his "house and out buildings had been destroyed, his crops were in bad shape, his livestock stolen, and his silver gone."

Joe and "Bub", his wife, worked hard and "methodically rebuilt their river-bottom farm." Joe Bostick saw his medical practice flourish, and was the town of South Pittsburg's first physician.

Joe married **Mary Louisa "Bub" HUNT** on 15 May 1855. Mary was born 1835. She died 4 Jun 1915 in Birmingham, AL and was buried in City Cemetery, South Pittsburg, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

"Mary Louisa "Bub" Hunt, daughter of Henry W. and Mary Darwin (Trotter) Hunt of Columbus, MS." "On May 15, 1855, the couple married in her hometown. For a year or so, they lived in Nashville, where their first child, Margaret Litton, was born April 10, 1856. They wanted to rear their children on a farm, free of the evil influences of the city. Consequently, they focused their attention on Marion County, TN, where Joe's grandfather, John Bostick, had owned a large tract and where Joe may have visited as a boy." In 1856 Joe bought "three tracts of land encompassing 2,500 acres from the East TN Mining and Mfg Co for \$6000." Joe and Mary lived in a house on the west side of the Jasper-Huntsville Road, along the Tennessee River. He also bought 122 acres adjacent to his river bottom land below the mouth of Battle Creek. He sold 50% of his interest in the land to his brother in law, William Barry "Will" Hunt in 1859, so he could devote more time to his medical practice.

They had the following children:

- 23 F i. **Margret Litton BOSTICK.**
- 24 M ii. **William "Willie" Hunt BOSTICK.**

Source: "Old Enough To Die: "By 1880, the Bostick's son, Willie, was 22 years old and farming along the Tennessee River. Within a year or two, his yearning to move further west got the best of him. Sometime in the early 1880's he moved to Ozark, Arkansas, where he met and married Cora Annie Wish on September 4, 1884. She would bring him ten children, the first six born in Arkansas, and the last four in Texas, where they would move by wagon train about 1897."

William married **Cora Annie WISH.**

- + 25 F iii. **Mary BOSTICK** died 4 Jan 1949.
- 26 M iv. **Joseph (Jr.) BOSTICK** died 1871 and was buried in City Cemetery, South Pittsburg, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die" "Tragedy stuck in 1871 when seven year old Joe Jr. drowned in the Tennessee River."

27 F v. **Catherine "Kate" Warren BOSTICK** died 1947 in Birmingham, AL.

Catherine married **Henry "Harry" BLACKLOCK** on 17 Dec 1890 in Christ Episcopal Church, South Pittsburg, TN. Henry died 1941 in Birmingham, AL.

6. **Capt. Thomas Hardin BOSTICK** (Hardin Perkins) was born 1833 in TN. He died 1871 in Lebanon, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

Tom was a lawyer, practicing in Lebanon, TN, at the outbreak of the Civil War. Even though he had a wife and two small daughters, he immediately joined the "Blues", the first company organized in Wilson County. "Tom was elected lieutenant and Rufus McClain (his brother-in-law) was quartermaster sergeant. Along with five other Wilson County companies, Lt. Tom Bostick and the "Blues" left Lebanon on May 20 for Nashville where they spent the night at the fairgrounds and by chance met Abe, Bill and Jim. The following evening they all went to Camp Trousdale for instruction." The six Wilson County companies were formed into the Seventh Tennessee Infantry Regiment..... Tom was elected captain of Company K, "The Blues." Abe transferred into this company.

After the War, Tom returned to Lebanon, TN.

Thomas married **Martha "Mat" D. MCCLAIN**. Martha was born 1834.

They had the following children:

28 F i. **Mary Litton BOSTICK** died 1920 and was buried in Nashville City Cemetery.

Mary married **Samuel F. WILSON State Senator** on 19 Aug 1880 in Lebanon, TN. Samuel died 1923 and was buried in Gallatin, TN.

+ 29 F ii. **Catherine "Kate" BOSTICK**.

7. **Eliza Jane BOSTICK** (Hardin Perkins) was born 1836 in TN. She died 22 Oct 1905 in Nashville, TN and was buried in Sanford, Florida.

Eliza Jane Bostick married John Fletcher Early in 1860

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

Eliza Bostick Early and her husband, John, and their baby, Hardin, may have been living near Jackson, MS, during 1861 and 1862. "By the third week of April (1862), Mr. Early was a member of Lt. Charles E. Fenner's Louisiana Battery of Light Artillery, which was organized in Jackson earlier in the month. The battery was quickly sent to New Orleans, where Admiral Farragut's fleet threatened the city. On May 9, Eliza and her baby were living in Hinds County, MS, with her husband's uncle, Orville Rives. His plantation home, Forkland, had plenty of room. A widower too old to fight himself, Mr. Rives was a Confederate patriot of the first rank. He not only gave liberally to the Confederate cause, but opened his home, not only to Eliza and her baby, but to every Confederate soldier who needed shelter."

Eliza married **John Fletcher EARLY** on 18 Oct 1860. John died 28 Sep 1894 in Florida.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

In 1858, John Fletcher Early was "a young man from Lynchburg, Virginia, who was associated with the Southern Methodist Publishing House in New Orleans."

They had the following children:

+ 30 M i. **Hardin Bostick EARLY** died 1902.

+ 31 M ii. **John EARLY**.

32 F iii. **Lila EARLY**.

+ 33 F iv. **Margaret EARLY**.



10. **Margaret Rebecca "Mag" BOSTICK** (Hardin Perkins) was born 1842 in Hardeman Cross Roads, TN. She died 1911 in Nashville, TN.

Source: "Old Enough To Die"

Mag was in Columbus, MS with her sister, Mary Anne Bostick Anderson, during the war.

Margaret married **John A. DAVIS**. John was born 1834. He died 1899.

They had the following children:

- 34 F i. **Kitty Litton DAVIS**.
- 35 F ii. **Margaret "Margie" DAVIS**.
- 36 F iii. **Mary DAVIS** was born about 1878 in Nashville, TN.

### Third Generation

25. **Mary BOSTICK** (Joseph "Joe", Hardin Perkins) died 4 Jan 1949 in Birmingham, AL.

"On December 9, 1885, Dr. and Mrs. Bostick's second oldest daughter, Mary Hunt, married. Her husband was Eugene Henry Lowman. He and his brothers owned the Lowman Stove Works in neighboring Bridgeport. Initially, Eugene and Mary lived in South Pittsburg, where their two oldest daughters, Mary Louise and Kate, were born in 1886 and 1888. Later, they moved to Bridgeport, where Annie was born in 1894. Soon after Eugene Lowman died, five months before Annie's birth, Mary returned to South Pittsburg, to open a boarding house, the Lowman Inn. She owned this establishment for 16 years."

Mary married **Eugene Henry LOWMAN**. Eugene died 1894 in Bridgeport, AL.

They had the following children:

- 37 F i. **Annie Litton LOWMAN**.
- 38 F ii. **Mary Louise LOWMAN**.
- 39 F iii. **Kate LOWMAN**.

29. **Catherine "Kate" BOSTICK** (Thomas Hardin, Hardin Perkins).

Catherine married **Edward R. PENNYBAKER**.

They had the following children:

- 40 M i. **Frank PENNYBAKER**.
- 41 M ii. **Edwina PENNYBAKER**.

30. **Hardin Bostick EARLY** (Eliza Jane BOSTICK, Hardin Perkins) died 1902.

Hardin married **Hattie**.

They had the following children:

- 42 M i. **Hardin EARLY**.

31. **John EARLY** (Eliza Jane BOSTICK, Hardin Perkins).

John married **Willie FALL**.

They had the following children:

- 43 F i. **Margaret EARLY** was born 1903.
- 44 M ii. **John (Jr.) EARLY** was born 1905.
- 45 F iii. **Katherine "Kay" Wyche EARLY** was born 1909.

46 M iv. **Joseph Horton Fall EARLY** was born 1913.

47 F v. **Elizabeth "Lib" Drennon EARLY** was born 1916.

33. **Margaret EARLY** (Eliza Jane BOSTICK, Hardin Perkins).

Margaret married **Granberry JACKSON**.

They had the following children:

48 M i. **John Early JACKSON** was born 1902.

+ 49 M ii. **Granberry (Jr.) JACKSON** was born 1906.

## Fourth Generation

49. **Granberry (Jr.) JACKSON** (Margaret EARLY, Eliza Jane BOSTICK, Hardin Perkins) was born 1906.

Granberry married **Henriette WEAVER** on 1937.

They had the following children:

50 F i. **Irene JACKSON**.

Irene married **Ridley (II) WILLS , Author**, son of Jesse Ely WILLS and Ellen BUCKNER.

Making History - Ridley Wills II, Nashville historian and postcard collector  
By Marc Stengel & Christopher Scribner

DECEMBER 1, 1997: How could W. Ridley Wills II not know tales? He's the son of a Fugitive (of lyric rather than felonious persuasion, of course), scion of the belle of Middle Tennessee plantations, friend and relation to people whose very names comprise the street map of oldest Nashville--Harding, McGavock, Elliston, Jackson. Wills' chief difficulty lies not so much in selecting what topics to pursue as in deciding where to begin.

"I guess I originally focused pretty narrowly on doing the definitive history of Belle Meade Plantation," he says in reference to his 1991 book *The History of Belle Meade: Mansion, Plantation and Stud*. Wills' ancestor John Harding first acquired this storied place in 1807, and his great-great-grandfather William Giles Harding was born there a year later. "I really feel good about that book, although I admit it was a pretty narrow interest. But it was just a start, because I soon branched out from that subject as a result of transcribing all the letters that went back and forth between the Hardings and other families. Pretty soon, you discover that you're learning a lot as the circle of correspondence grows.

"By now, I've got six or eight three-ring binders, divided into decades, which include deeds and correspondence from Belle Meade for every decade in the 19th century. This has come about because, for a long period of time, I transcribed and footnoted the letters that were found in a trunk at West Meade, the home of my grandmother.

"And then, for instance, I was at the home of my friend Margaret Wiley. She and her sister had a lead box stacked with letters and the land grant for Midway, their family's home where Brentwood Country Club is today. I saw this box at her house, and I said, 'Margaret, if you'll give me that 1872 map of Williamson County that's rolled up in your garage in a blanket, I'll transcribe and footnote all of your family letters.' So I transcribed all these handwritten letters from the Lysander McGavock family, about 120 in all.

"Well, by doing that, I found out where William Giles Harding's plantation in Louisiana was, because Lysander said in one letter to Harding, 'I am sending some hogsheads of molasses up-river.' And he wrote it from Iberville parish. Now, when I wrote my Belle Meade book, I hadn't known where this plantation in Louisiana was; but here, by accident, was just the information I'd been looking for."

A haphazard muse orchestrates the clutter along the walls of Wills' writerly office at Meeting

of the Waters, his antebellum home in Williamson County. The house, built in 1800, rattled by the New Madrid earthquake in 1811, and restored by Wills' son in 1990, hosts stories of its own: Here, for example, once lived Nicholas Perkins, who ended a season of frontier perfidy with his capture of Aaron Burr. Here, too, the seed of an idea for Wills' latest book, *Touring Tennessee, 1898-1955*, took root in the recollections of a boyhood pastime.

"A long-standing hobby for me has been collecting postcards," the historian admits. "I've got, now, 14,000 Tennessee postcards--I can hardly get them all on the bookcase where I store them. But that hobby led to this book.

"Back in 1961, I'd just gotten back to Nashville after working for National Life in the field, and I wanted to take pictures of old Nashville. So I took a camera down to Fourth Avenue, where I wanted to photograph the old Cumberland Presbyterian Publishing House. There was a big wrecker sign out in front of it. They were tearing it down.

"It hit me just then that what I wanted, what I wanted to record of Nashville--so much of it is gone. So I thought back to a childhood postcard collection I had. I went to my mother's house, and I went up into my old room, and I found the old shoebox in the closet. I found a half-dozen Nashville postcards, and I said to myself, 'This is wonderful. I wonder how many more of these there are,' and from then on I began to collect.

"I use these postcards to tell stories. It's a very convenient and practical way to show the social history of a people and a place. I mean, look at that picture of Clarksville," he says, pointing to a forest of smokestacks dispensing the very essence of Industrial Revolution on the Lower Cumberland. "It looks like London, for God's sake! Clarksville was never that buoyant; that's some booster's hope for what Clarksville ought to look like.

"And here," he continues, referring to a "modern" chrome-process postcard from the '50s. "This is the Booker T. Washington Motel in Humboldt, Tenn. I thought it was important to make a point about how difficult it was for an African American--traveling on Highway 70 from Nashville to Memphis before the days of Interstates and before the days of integration--to find a decent place to stay. And this was the decent place to stay."

An important part of Wills' personal story is the literary precedent established by his father, Jesse Wills. A consummate insurance executive with the National Life and Accident Insurance Co.--a financial powerhouse his own father helped found--Jesse led a special sort of double life. In the world of letters, he was as well if not better known as a poet and member of Vanderbilt University's influential Fugitives, whose verse and criticism coaxed Southern regionalism into the modern age.

"I've done different things from what my father did," Wills reflects. "And I'm sure I must have frustrated him in some ways, but he always had patience with me. My father's father, on the other hand, only had one interest. National Life...that was his whole life. It broke his health, and my father was determined that wouldn't happen to him.

"I never had any idea that I would eventually come to write as much as my father did; although, of course, he wrote poetry and little prose, and I'm writing only prose. But one of the advantages of living long is that if you pursue an interest that you picked up relatively early in life, by the time you get to my age, you've accumulated a lot of information. In unexpected ways, perhaps, many of my father's and my interests have run parallel. Over time, I've come to understand--like him, I think--how hobbies bring such a richness to our lives and often lead to a second, unexpected vocation."--Marc Stengel

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Irene and Ridley Wills are selling the Meeting of the Waters home outside Franklin. Earlier this year an easement that includes 65 acres adjoining the historic home was donated to The Land Trust for Tennessee.

Tuesday, 05/30/06: Owners put Meeting of the Waters on the market. Conservation easements ensure no changes to be made to 197-year-old historic home.

By KEVIN WALTERS  
Staff Writer

FOREST HOME COMMUNITY — After nearly 20 years, Ridley and Irene Wills are parting with their historic home, Meeting of the Waters. This week, the Willses will put their home and land on the market, asking \$3.3 million for the home and 18 acres around the house, and \$1.2 million for an adjacent 65-acre parcel of land. But lovers of local history and architecture say the property is virtually priceless because it is one of the county's oldest homes.

"It would be right at the top of my list," said Rick Warwick, a county historical expert, about the home's importance. Located near where the Harpeth and West Harpeth rivers intersect west of Franklin, Meeting of the Waters was completed in 1809. And it's one of five houses remaining in Williamson County built by Revolutionary War officer and early county settler Thomas Hardin Perkins.

Yet the home may draw more interest because of what isn't built there.

Earlier this year, the Willses donated a conservation easement on 65 acres near the house to The Land Trust for Tennessee. A conservation easement is a voluntary contract between a landowner and a land trust, government agency or other organization that places permanent restrictions on the future use of the property in order to protect its scenic attributes.

The Willses are now seeking another easement on the home's front and side yards as well as the front of the home. If approved, the new easement would restrict construction on that property.

Growing older and maintaining the home's upkeep was part of the reason the couple says they're selling their house. But other external forces such as increasing residential development prompted the couple to seek out a conservation easement.

"I got the easement because we knew we were going to move," said Ridley Wills, who will turn 72 in June. "I wanted to protect the house, the view from the house and the view toward the house both from Old Hillsboro (Road) and from Del Rio Pike."

Placing strict limits on the property will likely affect how much money buyers might pay for land, but whether the conservation easements affect how quickly this home is sold remains to be seen. Early word-of-mouth interest in the home has been strong, according to the couple's real estate agent, Steve Fridrich.

As a third century dawns for Meeting of the Waters, its potential sale may be a test case of sorts for continued interest in historic preservation and conservation easements in a county also known for rapid development.

'Another 100 years'

Homes in Williamson County may range in size and price, but few have a pedigree that matches the antebellum house Ridley and Irene Wills have called home since 1989.

To put its past into perspective, Thomas Jefferson was the U.S. president when this home was finished, and the first shots of the Civil War were still decades away from being fired.

Among the Meeting of the Waters' features is a cherry stairwell with a tongue-and-groove pattern fastened with wooden pegs, while the floors of the living room, front hall and dining room are made of ash. Upstairs, the attic rafters are numbered with Roman numerals and secured with 7-inch pegs.

It's not just Meeting of Waters' more than 200 years of history that's charmed historian Warwick and others. It's also the loving restoration and updating the Willses gave the brick two-story Federal plantation house after buying it in 1989.

Ridley Wills credits much of the home's beauty to Irene, an award-winning gardener.

"I love my garden, I've loved my decorations," Irene Wills said. "I hope I've put the house together for another 100 years."

Both say their favorite room in the home is the dining room, with its portrait of Andrew Jackson and historical sideboard. They'll miss that and the rest of the house when they move to Gloucester Square in Nashville.

"It's a lovely house," Ridley Wills said of their new home. "It just doesn't have a yard."

Selling a protected house

What the Willises' home does include are the current conservation easement on 65 acres adjoining the house — and a new easement in the works for the front and side yards.

Having this new easement would be crucial to protecting the home and the land, Fridrich said.

"You would think that nobody would build there, but unless it's protected today, there's no assurance that nobody would build there," he said.

As Fridrich says, there are larger homes with more amenities that cost less, but purchasing Meeting of the Waters is akin to buying a piece of art and history.

"You have to have a passion for the house before you'd even be interested," Fridrich said. "And you have to have a passion for the age of the house, the style of this house and the feel of this house or you're not going to be interested at all."

Prospective buyers, including some flying to Franklin to see it, will tour the home beginning this week, Fridrich said.

Ridley Wills credits Leiper's Fork businessman Aubrey Preston with inspiring him to secure a conservation easement on the land.

Preston donated a conservation easement on about 450 acres five years ago to The Land Trust for Tennessee, the private nonprofit group's first such donation.

What Preston found is that the easements' limitations don't improve a property's financial value immediately, but they can provide increases of value in other ways.

"You're voluntarily taking away options for future owners that may create different kinds of value for different uses," Preston said. "The best scenario is that it would be a lateral move and probably does devalue the property specifically in some way."

But in Leiper's Fork, the land's value dramatically increased in a few years' time after the easements were established. In some cases, prices rose from being \$2,000 an acre to \$10,000 an acre, Preston has said.

The easements also increase quality of life, Preston said, ensuring less traffic, more wildlife preservation and cleaner air, among other things.

"In the Leiper's Fork case, we didn't know it was going to happen, but we did it because it was the right thing to do," Preston said.

Land preservation is something Williamson County landowners are showing continued interest in even as the pace of development increases, said Eileen Hennessy, land protection director for The Land Trust of Tennessee.

"The community has realized how important historic structures are to the landscapes around

them and we're delighted in landowners like the Willises, who were excited about protecting the land around Meeting of the Waters," Hennessy said.

Ridley Wills wasn't worried about the easement making a sale more challenging or diminishing the home's value. Saving the land was his primary goal, he said.

"I think as the county continues to grow, people will have an increasing need to protect old places and protect important parts of our heritage," he said.

As for comparable sales on his home — "comps" as they're commonly known — Wills chuckles.

"People say, 'What are the comparables for this house?' There ain't any comparables," he said.

Irene and Ridley Wills are selling the Meeting of the Waters home outside Franklin. Earlier this year an easement that includes 65 acres adjoining the historic home was donated to The Land Trust for Tennessee. (JEANNE REASONOVER / THE TENNESSEAN)

In addition to an easement that protects 65 acres adjoining the historic home at the Meeting of the Waters, a new easement is in the works for the front and side yards. (PHOTOS BY JEANNE REASONOVER / THE TENNESSEAN)

The dining room is the Willises' favorite in the home at the Meeting of the Waters. The couple is selling the nearly 200-year-old house.

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