

EARLY DESCRIPTION OF LEASBURG

Note: This description is given entering Leasburg from the east side on Hwy 158. To follow the line of travel described, and to locate the homes still standing, turn left off Hwy 158 onto Old Leasburg Road, #1180, a narrow dirt road from the Person Co. side, parallel to Hwy 158. This was once the main road into Leasburg before Hwy 158 was built. After passing the George N. Thompson home, turn right onto Olive Hill Church Rd. and then turn left back into Hwy 158 heading west. The author of these reminiscences of mid-1800s is not known. The article appeared in THE COURIER-TIMES newspaper and was signed only "Sis".)

March, 1911.....Ruminating and pondering over the past, my thoughts naturally turn to dear old Leasburg, where I spent most of my school days. What a change forty-nine or fifty years have wrought. Almost all who lived there then are dead or have moved away. I will begin on the east end of town and go on up and see the changes. Well, just after crossing Cobb Creek, on the right was (1.) Mrs. Sidney Thompson and family. They are all gone. Mr. W. S. Dixon now owns the place and makes it his home.

The next dwelling on the same side, was (2.) Lawyer G. N. Thompson's; he is gone, but his widow and children occupy the old home. Next on the left a man by the name of (3.) Terrell, who made furniture. He didn't live there long, the old house is nearly gone. On the right where (4.) William Stanfield (Col.) now lives, was Mrs. Holden's Hotel. On same side of street was (5.) Jeff. Whitfield's Store afterwards owned and used by W. R. Hambrick but not used now. Opposite the old store (6.) Dr. Jacob Thompson lived. The Dr. was young then, and hadn't lived there very long. A Mr. Boshamer lived there before. Mr. Al Wade owns it now and resides there.

Over across the street where (7.) Rev. M. C. Thomas lives, was built many years later, by W. R. Hambrick, who made it his home for several years. We will cross the street again to the left and view the remains of the (8.) old Culbreth residence. They kept Hotel and Mrs. Culbreth sold confectioneries. (9.) Mr. Culbreth's buggy shop was right across from the dwelling where he did all kinds of repairing. Part of the old house is still standing, but the old shop is gone long ago.. West of Culbreths on the left a (10.) Mr. Hedgepath lived. He didn't stay there many years. Then the place went from one to another 'til now Mrs. Nannie Stephens owns the place and lives there. A little southwest from Mrs. Stephens was the old Blacksmith shop. We children used to stop at the door and think it great fun to see "Uncle Watt" beat the red-hot iron and make the sparks fly. A few yards south of the old shop was (11.) the old "Brick Academy" where the male school was taught. The Academy was on the edge of the Cemetery. It is all gone. Not a sign of it is there. I think there are graves where the Academy stood. It makes one sad to see how fast the cemetery is filling up.

Now we will go back to Main Street. On the right was (12.) Mr. Buck Paylor's Store, now owned and run by H. T. Connally. Next on the right was (13.) Dr. Stanfield's residence. Mrs. Stanfield was a great lover of flowers and had a great many. Mr. H. T. Connally owns the place now and lives there with his family. Right opposite Mr. Connally's, (14.) Mr. John Hambrick lived. Afterwards, Dr. Stanfield made it into a store and sold goods there for a while. Then it was made into a dwelling again and now Mr. Walter Connally lives there.

Now we will turn the corner and go toward the Academy (*Somerville Female Institute*), the dear old place where I spent so many happy hours. The school was taught by Rev. Solomon Lea and his daughters; Mrs. Lea, teaching the music class.

On the left as you go to the Academy (15-A.) (*Somerville Female Institute*), was the dwelling of (15.) Rev. Solomon Lea, with several outhouses for the girl boarders to stay in. The school was a flourishing one in those days. They came from all over the country far and

near and many had to board. A daughter and son of Rev. Solomon Lea still occupy the old home.

Up in a grove of large oaks, a little northeast of the Academy, (*Somerville Female Institute*) lived (16.) Mr. Green Pulliam with his family. Mr. Bob Newman lives there now. Now we will retrace our steps back to Main Street again. On the left a little distance from the street stands (17.) the Methodist Church, with a beautiful lawn on the front. Next on the same side is (18.) the parsonage, the home of the preacher. Kingsberry, I think, was on the circuit at that time. Norman just having left. Across from the parsonage is the store of (19.) W. J. Pulliam, but it was not there in the early sixties. Where (20.) Mr. W. J. Pulliam now lives was the home of R. John Fuller and his two sisters, Mary Ann and Lizzie. Across from there on the right (21.) Mr. John Wilkerson lived. Mr. W. L. Thomas lives there now. (22.) Mr. Thomas' Store was built since then and (23.) J. T. Bradsher's Store was, too. Opposite W. L. Thomas' Store, (24.) Mr. Malone lived with his family. Now owned and occupied by J. T. Bradsher's widow and children. On the right a little farther up, (25.) Mr. Addie Stephens lives. His house was not built then. On the same side was the home of (26.) Mr. Bob Hancock. Afterwards owned and occupied by Mr. Buck Johnson. Mr. Will Wade lives there now. Up in a nice grove on the left is the home of (27.) Mr. Pink Newman. Mr. Jefferson Whitfield used to live there. Next on the left in another nice grove, (28.) Mr. Ben Stanfield lived. He was the father to the Mr. Ben F. Stanfield who lives there now and grandfather of Brother Ben E. Stanfield, the preacher. Opposite on the right, (29.) Mr. Buck Paylor lives. Mrs. Vince Morton now owns and resides there. Now we will go back and turn the corner at J. T. Bradsher's Store and go down to the old homeplace of (30.) Mr. Billy Lea, father of Rev. Solomon Lea. I suppose Leasburg was named for the Lea family who were among the first to settle there. Mr. Billy Lea was an old man when he died being something over ninety.

He must have been a very active man for one of his age. I can remember seeing him ride horseback not many years before he died.

I have written right much about Leasburg and I am afraid this will find its way into the waste basket. But I must say Leasburg has always been a nice little town and is yet. Nowhere on earth do nicer people live than in and around Leasburg. --SIS--