

INTRODUCTION

Some two or three years ago, the descendants of JONAS S. GRIGGS received a bequest from him through property entailed to his daughter, Lucy Ann Griggs Owen. These bequests varied from \$300.00 each, to the two grandchildren of one daughter, to less than \$5.00 to the grandchildren of another daughter. Six grandchildren of Jonas S. Griggs were living at that time, and they received from \$100.00 to \$200.00, since this fund was distributed on a per stirpes basis. Many of the great-grandchildren who were beneficiaries of this bequest knew nothing of Jonas S. Griggs, nor of the family history.

At that time I was (and still am) working on a history of the families of my two grandfathers, of whom Jonas S. Griggs was one. I was motivated to do this since I had much of the extant memorabilia of the Jonas S. Griggs family--pictures, letters, clippings, records, bills of sale, etc. These had come to me from my mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney, and from my childless aunts, Mattie Griggs Hampton and Lucy Griggs Owen. Too, I had easy access to the records in the Madison County Clerk's office for deeds, marriage records, suits, etc. And I realized that if I did not get these memorabilia and records together in some permanent form, they would be lost, because having lived much with my aunt, Mattie Griggs Hampton before her death in 1948 at age 81, and with my mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney, until her death in 1961 at age 86, I, and I alone, knew much of this family history.

So I bought a number of expensive bound scrapbooks and undertook to write a family history that would make the members of the family flesh and blood people rather than names on a genealogy list, and to mount this typewritten history, along with the supporting memorabilia and records in these bound volumes.

Duplicated copies of the story of the Jonas S. Griggs family, as long as they lived in College Hill, are being sent to interested persons. Such duplicates will fade with time, so we suggest keeping them in a file or box where they will not be exposed to the light. In that way, they will last indefinitely.

Much of this story is based on memory of stories told me and on my own memories, but is verified whenever records are available. The reader will note many references to photographs, records, etc. as 'mounted on page _____ of Vol. _____' of the bound scrapbooks. There is no way of sharing these with the reader of these duplicated copies.

I am indebted to:

Miss Kathryn Owen of Winchester, Kentucky for the form which this history has taken. She is the foster granddaughter of Lucy Griggs Owen and an historian. She has done similar books on the Owen Family. Too, I am indebted to her for many pictures, clippings and records of Lucy Griggs Owen.

MISS MATTIE M. GRINSTEAD. She is 89 years old and is, I believe, the only living person who can remember Jonas S. and Mary F. Griggs. I am indebted to her for memories, pictures and records.

MRS. MAUDE CONN BROWN of Burgin, Kentucky for records.

MRS. RUTH RUCKER ODER of Cynthiana, Kentucky for pictures.

MISS GRIGGS MOORES and MR. J. W. MOORES, of Cincinnati, Ohio for their grandmother's, Mattie Griggs Eikin's, collection of pictures of her brother's and sister's families--pictures I have not been able to secure elsewhere--and pictures of their own family.

MR. B. C. EDWARDS of Lexington, Kentucky, a native of College Hill, a College Hill history buff, a member of the Board of Directors of the College Hill Cemetery, for copies of maps, court records, pictures, etc. and for his enthusiastic interest in the history of the Jones S. Griggs Family.

R. R. RICHARDS, my husband, for his interest and support; for much of the typing and duplicating; for his sharing of our funds not only for this history project, which has not been an inexpensive one, but for our gift of \$100.00 to the Perpetual Fund of the College Hill Cemetery Association for the care of the Jonas S. Griggs lot, and last fall we erected a brick column on the site of the razed Methodist Episcopal (Brick) Church (now in the cemetery) and placed on it the bell from that church, in memory of Jonas S. Griggs and his wife, Mary F. Griggs. A Bronze Plaque, 18' by 12' reads:

This Bell
From the Steeple of
The Methodist Episcopal (Brick) Church
Which stood on this spot (1866-1939)
is placed here in memory of
Jonas S. Griggs (1826-1886) and Mary F. Griggs (1834-1886)
Donors of the land and brick for the church
and of the land for the College Hill Cemetery

This memorial cost us more than \$600.00, plus ten days of hard work on the part of R. R. Richards.

With this introduction, it is hoped that the recipient of this account of the Jones S. Griggs Family, will be interested in reading and keeping these papers. A limited number of copies have been made and can not be replaced or extended.

Mary Frances McKinney Richards
410 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

THE JONAS SPARKS GRIGGS FAMILY

Part 1. Jonas S. Griggs and Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs

Jonas Sparks Griggs was born August 31, 1826, the son of Burgess Griggs and Fermilier Hampton Griggs. Nothing is known now (1970) of his birthplace, nor of his youth. For most of his adult life, at least, he lived in College Hill, Madison County, Kentucky.

College Hill had formerly been named "Texas", but when the village acquired a post-office its name had to be changed since a post-office in Washington County, Kentucky, already had been assigned the name of "Texas, Kentucky". The name "College Hill" was chosen in recognition of the "Texas Seminary" (immediately changed to "College Hill Seminary") which had been established in the village through the efforts of Jonas S. Griggs and others.

At age 20, on August 6, 1846, Jonas Sparks Griggs was married to Lucy Ann Johnson (born November 26, 1827) who was not yet 19 years old on her wedding date.

A type-written eulogy, by James H. Brooking (of whom I know nothing, but would guess that he was a Methodist preacher) says Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs was born in Fayette County. (See typewritten eulogy mounted in this volume on page _____.)

Until I began working on this history, I had been under the impression that both the Griggs and Johnson families came from Estill County, Kentucky, into Madison County, Kentucky. I do know that Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs had Johnson kinfolk in Indiana and other Johnson kin in Lexington. These kin visited her daughter, Lucy Ann Griggs Owen, often at her home in Clark County during the first two decades of this century. There were also two old-maid cousins by the name of Dixon who lived in Estill County. One of them copied the family record from the Bible of Lucy Ann Griggs' parents. From this we learn that Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs was the youngest of fourteen children of Jesse and Leticia Johnson. This record is copied below, and the original record as copied by Miss Susie E. Dixon, is mounted on page _____ of this volume.

Family Record of Jesse and Leticia Johnson

Jesse Johnson was born March 8, 1772

Letty Johnson, his wife, was born July 13, 1786

Married July 22, 1802

(Their Children)

Bassil W. Johnson was born May 7, 1803

Sisly was born February 15, 1805

Peter Johnson was born October 6, 1806

Martha Johnson was born April 12, 1808

Mary Johnson was born February 8, 1810

Sophia E. Johnson was born February 15, 1812

Anna M. Johnson was born March 8, 1814

Thurat G. Johnson was born July 15, 1816

Delila G. Johnson was born December 24, 1817

Perlina M. and Permelia J. Johnson were born March 8, 1820

John C. Johnson was born March 7, 1822

Elizabeth C. Johnson was born December 20, 1823

William D. Johnson was born July 22, 1825

Lucy A. Johnson was born November 26, 1827

A copy from the old family Bible

Written by a grand-daughter Susie E. Dixon, for her Cousin, Lucy Owen, July 20, 1911

The original of the above record was found in Lucy Ann Griggs Owen's Bible in 1969 by her foster grand-daughter, Kathryn Owen, and her niece, Mary Frances McKinney Richards.

Jonas S. Griggs lived most of his married life in a log house - weatherboarded - in College Hill Village. The house, spring, privy and ize-house were on the right side of the road and the barn and other buildings were on the left side of the road as you drive through the village from Waco to the Mouth of Red River.

Here Jonas S. Griggs and his wife, Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs, lived, and here Lucy Ann bore Jonas seven children in the less than 14 years of her married life - from her marriage on August 31, 1846 until her death on the day she gave birth to her seventh child (a daughter, who was given her name) on March 3, 1860.

These children and their birth and death dates are:

1. Sara Bird Griggs - August 2, 1849 - October 6, 1926 - age 77 years
2. William Taylor Griggs - August 27, 1851 - March 18, 1932 - age 80+ years
3. James C. Griggs - September 15, 1853 - September 28, 1879 - age 26 years
4. Permillier C. Griggs - January 20, 1855 - November 19, 1855 - age 10 months
5. Mary Catheen Griggs - August 30, 1856 - February 5, 1857 - age 5 months
6. Thomas Owen Griggs - March 12, 1858 - August 5, 1859 - age 1 year, 5 months
7. Lucy Ann Griggs - March 3, 1860 - January 3, 1938 - age nearly 78 years.

Three of Lucy Ann Griggs' children died as babies, after a year and a half or much less of life. One son, James C. "Jimmy" Griggs, lived to be 26 years old before he died following an accident at the flour mill in Fayette County where he was working with his brother-in-law, James W. Eikin. These four children are buried in the College Hill cemetery. Her other three children lived to be well past their Biblically-alloted time of three score years and ten, including the baby whose birth cost her her life.

As I write this at age 70 in the year 1970, and more than a hundred years after Lucy Ann Griggs' death, it is difficult for me to think of her as a young woman less than 33 years old, her health broken by bearing seven children in fourteen years. It is difficult in this day of such small families to realize that all women in those years of history bore large families, that the lack of sanitation, sterilization of water, pasteurization of foods, of no screens and lots of flies, made it difficult to "get a child through his second summer" (the first one off its mother's breast) and infant mortality was much higher, even, than the death rate of women in childbirth. It is equally difficult to realize that typhoid fever, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, (usually called "consumption"), measles, whooping cough, and even smallpox, were accepted as natural and inevitable, and even sometimes "as the will of God."

To the best of my knowledge there is no identifiable picture of Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs. She was buried in the College Hill Methodist Church Cemetery, across the road and a few hundred yards down the road from her home. Her tombstone reads:

LUCY ANN

Wife of Jonas S. Griggs
Born. Nov. 26 1827
Died March 3. 1860

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH.

They buried Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs the day after her death. There was no embalming in those days.

And suddenly Jonas S. Griggs, then not yet 34 years of age, found himself with four motherless children, Sara Bird not yet 11 years old, William Taylor not yet 9 years old, James C. "Jimmy" only 6 1/2 years old and the new-born Lucy Ann.

THE JONAS SPARKS GRIGGS FAMILY HISTORY
PART II

JONAS S. GRIGGS SECOND MARRIAGE - TO MARY FRANCES OWEN ROYSTON

I never learned who helped Jonas S. Griggs care for his four motherless children, especially the baby Lucy Ann, during the less than five months that it took him to court and marry Mary Frances Owen Royston, a widow, then 26 years old, on July 26, 1860.

(As a footnote to the above, Jonas' good friend, Dr. Jeremiah Ayres, a bachelor about the same age as Jonas had paid court to Mary Frances Royston, also.)

Mary Frances Royston brought her two little Royston girls, Ann Elizabeth, age 6 and Nanna Alice (as it is given in the Jonas Griggs family Bible) not yet two years old, to join the four Griggs children.

To these six "your children" and "my children", Jonas and Mary Frances added the first of six "our children" - Polly Bell (as recorded in the Griggs Family Bible, called "Molly") nine months later on May 1, 1861. Molly was, therefore, only 14 months younger than her half-sister, Lucy Ann.

The four Griggs children and the two Royston girls were so young at the time of Jonas' and Mary Frances' marriage, that they thought of them as their parents, and they and the six "our" children grew up as one family. I have heard all of them testify that they knew no difference between their full, half, or step brothers and sisters.

As they grew older, and as I came to know them, I was aware of a much closer relationship among the three youngest children, Mattie, Edward and Leatha. This was natural, since they lived together for over six years after their parent's deaths. There was also a close relationship of this group with Lucy Ann Griggs Owen, Mollie Griggs Elkin and William T. Griggs and their families. Mollie Griggs Elkins' family was as close to her half-brother, W. T. Griggs and her half-sister, Lucy Ann Griggs Owen, and their families, as they were to any of her full brothers and sisters.

Alice Royston Bonny and James C. Griggs died as adults, several years before their parents did. Charles Lincoln Griggs died in 1906 at age 42, the second of "our" children to die.

MARY FRANCES OWEN ROYSTON (Aug. 7, 1834 - July 17, 1886)

Mary Frances Owen was the daughter of James Wesley and Polly Asbury Powell Owen of Union City, Madison County, Kentucky. She married John Sinclair Royston (- March 22, 1859) on August 30, 1853, when she was 19 years old. The minister was her brother-in-law, Rev. W. H. Niblick. He had married her sister, Sally Ann Owen.

John Royston owned a farm on Silver Creek in Madison County, somewhere across that creek from the present farm of Turley Noland. He and his wife lived there, and there Mary Frances gave birth to three children:

Ann Elizabeth Royston - August 15, 1854

James Wesley Royston - July 29, 1856

Nanna Alice Royston - September 26, 1858

After John Sinclair Royston's death on March 22, 1859, Mary Frances Royston rented her farm to John Allen Griggs, brother of Jonas, and returned to her parents' home near Union City.

I do not know the cause of John S. Royston's death nor his burial place, though his granddaughter, Mattie M. Grinstead says it was in a family graveyard on what is now the Four Mile Road out of Richmond.

THE Jonas Sparks Griggs Family History - Part II - Page 2.

On September 5, 1859, less than five months after his father's death, young James Wesley Royston, age 3 years and 38 days, died of measles. He was buried in his grandfather James Wesley Owen's (for whom he had been named) family cemetery, near Union City, in Madison County, Kentucky.

At this same time his mother, Mary Frances Royston, was so ill with the measles that her life was dispered of, and some of the family came to Richmond and brought black taffeta with which to make a shroud. (Most married women and all widows wore black, regardless of age.) But Mary Frances Owen Royston recovered, and less than a year later was married, in the black taffeta dress, to Jonas S. Griggs.

JONAS SPARKS AND MARY FRANCES GRIGGS

Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs lived together for 26 years in the village of College Hill. They had six children - listed here:

Polly Bell (Mollie) Griggs - May 1, 1861 - Nov. 19, 1919 - Married James W. Elkin
Charles Lincoln Griggs - July 8, 1864 - Aug. 6, 1906 - Married Dora Norris
Mattie Eads Griggs - October 1, 1866 - March 31, 1948 - Married A. Howard Hampton
Lucian Edward Griggs - March 19, 1869 - Nov. 14, 1944 - Married Mary Smith
Fannie Eula Griggs - Dec. 9, 1871 - July 18, 1874 - age 2 years and 7 months
Leatha May Griggs - Dec. 4, 1874 - Jan. 30, 1961 - Married David B. McKimney

Death which had come to them so frequently in the past, in the loss of their respective wife and husband, in the loss of three young children for Jonas and a young son for Mary Frances, came again at intervals:

1. Fannie Eula Griggs - Their 2 1/2 year old daughter
2. Allice Royston Bonney - September 15, 1877 - in childbirth - age 19. (Her daughter)
3. James C. Griggs - Sept. 28, 1878 - in a Mill accident - (His son.)
- 4/ Mollie Bonney Griggs, wife of W. T. Griggs - June 30, 1883 - (Daughter-in-law)

There were numerous deaths of young or still-born grandchildren, William T. Griggs 2, Sara Bird Rucker 1, Mollie Griggs Elkin 3. After Jonas and Mary Frances deaths, Annie Royston Grinstead lost a young son killed by lightning.

But with all this, Jonas and Mary Frances seemed to have had a happy home, reared their children to be good men and women, to make good husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. None of their children or grandchildren were ever in the divorce court.

Jonas and Mary Frances seem to have prospered, lived well for that period in history, had many friends, become leaders in the village community and the Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE JONAS S. GRIGGS HISTORY
PART III
THE JONAS S. GRIGGS HOME IN COLLEGE HILL

Jonas, sometime before 1880, built a new house. My mother, Leatha Grigge McKinney, could remember living in the "old house", and since she was born in 1874 and Jonas Griggs died in 1886, it is thus I judge the date. It was built of brick burned on the place in a kiln across the road from the house. The 1876 map of Madison County shows the location of this brick kiln.

The "new" house was built in front of and to the side of the "old house". Typical of the houses of that date, it had a center hall, with large square rooms on each side. The "front" stairway went up from this hall to an upper hall, that in turn, opened into the two rooms above those downstairs. A door in the rear of the lower hall opened onto an L-shaped back porch. The parlor was on the right as you entered, with the family room on the left. Behind it was the "ell" with the dining room and kitchen. There was a stairway on the porch, going up back of the parlor wall, from which there was entrance to the two bed-rooms over the dining room and the kitchen. There was a large front porch, one story. (A floor plan is included at the end of this chapter.)

Part of the old log house must have been preserved as my Mother spoke of a "wash-house" in the yard with a fireplace, tubs, kettles, etc. for washing and boiling clothes. Too, they picked wool there, and washed it for spinning and weaving. The smoke-house, hen-house, the privy, the spring and spring-house and the ice-house (a mound which is its fallen-in roof and the spring are the only things to be seen today (1969)) were on the same side of the road as the house, as was the store.

The barn, sheds, kiln, and other buildings were across the road from the house. Mother remembered the orchards and vineyards, in addition to the garden. Spoke of an "apple-house" with thick, double walls, sawdust filled for insulation, where apples were stored in winter, and cider was made and the barrells of sidar vinegar were stored also a "root-cellar" (a room underground, walled with stone and covered with dirt) and also a "cellar" under the kitchen of the "new house". The former was used for potatoes, cabbage, turnips, etc. and the latter for the canned tomatoes, blackberries, the jams and preserves, the big stone crocks of pickles or eggs stored in brine for the winter, sausage fried and stored in jars and covered with fat that come from the frying.

New furniture - some at least - was purchased for the new home. Since this house burned to the ground in 1887, one year after Jonas Griggs' death, very little of this furniture was saved, mostly that which was in the parlor. This included a marble-topped dresser (walnut), a marble-topped walnut table, an organ, six cane-bottomed walnut straight chairs, and at least four pictures. Leatha Griggs and a neighbor boy, Elmex Deatherage, two children 13 years of age and in their night-clothes, took up and saved the stair carpet. I think the parlor carpet was also saved. All of the bed-clothes on the bannisters upstairs of the back porch for sunning and airing could have been saved, had anyone thought to have run up and thrown them down.

But not all the furniture in the "new" house was new. Mother could remember two old cherry chests and an old "corded" bedstead in her "Ma's and Pa's" room. Mary Frances Griggs evidently had new dining room furniture, because she gave her old walnut three-cornered cupboard to her daughter, Mollie Griggs Elkin. (Mollie Elkin's grandchildren, Griggs and J.W. Moores have this cupboard now - 1969)

I have been under the impression that Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs lived, slept and died in the "family room", but Mattie Grinstead (age 86 in 1969) remembers that Jonas was ill and died in the upstairs bedroom above the parlor. She remembers being taken there to see him, and that he let her have the brass bell that he used to call, to play with. She knows now how nervous that must have made her grandpa. She says she sat on the sill of the window and looked out on the roof of the front porch. (She was 3 1/2 years old.)

Mattie Grinstead also remembers her grandma, Mary Frances, telling her to go over to the barn (imagine sending a three-year-old across a county road on an errand today!) and "tell your Uncle Charlie to bring me some dips and some cobs" (for starting a fire.) Mattie misunderstood and started for her own home, five miles distant, because they had an old negro farm worker whom she called "Uncle Charlie". When she came to a mud hole, she climbed up on the fence and waited until her young uncle, Ed Griggs, came along on a horse and took her back to her grandmother.

We do not know when or why Jonas S. Griggs and three or four of his brothers came to College Hill. We do know that Jonas, the eldest brother, bought his first piece of land there in 1850, four years after his marriage to Lucy Ann Johnson. This purchase was for one acre for \$25.00 from Dr. Thomas Moberly who had married a Lipscomb who had inherited much land.

Mr. B. C. Edwards thinks Jonas Griggs may have owned the first store in the village and we do know his store housed the first Post Office, established in 1875, and shown on the 1876 Madison County map as just beyond Jonas' residence and on the same side of the road. Mr. Edwards says this store was built of brick also, as older members of the community can remember the pile of brick where the store burned. (This could have been the brick from the burned house). Whether the store (brick or frame) burned when the home did or at a later date we do not know.

A list of deeds to and from Jonas S. Griggs, singly and in partnership with his brother, Lucian T. Griggs, shows he bought and sold many acreages, some of them very small. At the time of his death, Jonas owned not only his home place, but also partnership lands with his brother Lucian. (See Jonas' will on page _____.) Several of these lands are shown on the 1876 map of Madison County.

The bill of sale for Jonas Griggs' stock (See ad on page _____) indicates he bred and raised horses and mules, as well as raised sheep and cattle. An old "cash book" kept by Edward Griggs, after his father's death, lists services furnished mares.

His children always spoke of Jonas S. Griggs as a good farmer, following the best known practices of the day. Since all good food - meat, milk and dairy products, fruits and vegetables, flour and meal, poultry, etc. - had to be produced and prepared at home, there was a never-ending and huge task for all members of the family. Some copies of 1850 issues of THE KENTUCKY AGRICULTURIST, subscribed to by Hiram Douthitt (Grandfather of Margaret Ayres, Hiram Douthitt II, William Blanton, etc.) are mounted in these books. (Pages _____). These illustrate that even at that date, there were farmers who were using all means available to them to do a good job. If Jonas Griggs subscribed to this magazine, any preserved copies were lost when the Griggs home burned in 1887.

Other indexes of his satisfactory material status, were his gifts to each child when they married, of a feather bed, a good horse and saddle and to the girls, at least, a half-dozen sterling teaspoons; of his gift of an acre of land to the new "brick" church, of the bricks for that church; of his gift of the College Hill Cemetery; of his gift of two acres of land to the Texas Seminary for \$1.00; the fact that he served as guardian of the orphaned Hiram Douthitt II (brother of Margaret Douthitt Ayres); and of the estate he left.

Mary Frances Owen Royston Griggs and her two daughters shared the estate of John Sinclair Royston. I have found no will of his and I do not know when this estate was settled, but Mother spoke of "Ma's and Annie's land" and of Annie getting it all when her mother died, Alice Royston Bonney having died without heirs before her mother died.

THE JONAS SPARKS GRIGGS FAMILY HISTORY

PART IV

Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs' Community Life

We do not know when Jonas S. Griggs became such a devout Christian, nor when he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, nor do we know when the first Methodist Church was organized and built in Texas, later College Hill, Kentucky. James H. Brooking's eulogy (Page _____) to Lucy Ann Johnson Griggs, speaks of her joining the Methodist Episcopal Church and "receiving the pearl of great price" four years after her marriage. That would have been in 1850, the year Jonas Griggs bought his first land in College Hill, and the year that Mr. B. C. Edwards thinks the Church was organized and the first frame building constructed. Could this have been the result of a revival? Who gave the land for this building? No deed has been found after diligent research.

The first known trustees of the Texas Methodist Church were Jonas S. Griggs, John Marsh, Hamilton Norris and James Wesley Owen, who became Jonas Griggs' father-in-law at his second marriage. In 1854, these trustees purchased from Dr. Thomas Moberly and his wife, a house and 2 1/2 acres of land across the road and a few hundred feet to the north of the church building, for a parsonage for their pastor. They paid \$225.00 for this property out of their own pockets. Later, they were reimbursed by members of the congregation for all but \$7.00 of this amount, except of course for their own contributions. Since there was trouble on the "circuits" of that day over the ownership of parsonages, the deed to the property was, on the advice of the Presiding Elder, kept in their names.

Little else is known of the family history during the 1850's. The close association of the Griggs and Owen families in the Church explains why Jonas and Lucy Ann Griggs named a son Thomas Owen Griggs, and why Mary Frances Owen Royston rented her farm to John Allen Griggs before she was married to Jonas.

Although he could find no deed to substantiate it, Mr. B. C. Edwards was convinced (local tradition) that Jonas Griggs gave the land for the original College Hill Cemetery and established the first College Hill Cemetery Association, though it may not have had that exact title. (This cemetery does not belong to the College Hill Methodist Church as I had thought at one time.)

This conclusion proved to be correct. When Jonas Griggs gave the land for the second Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866, he gave a very exact deed to this acre, more or less. When we plotted this deed to the church on graph paper with a protractor, Jonas S. Griggs states definitely that the land to the northeast of the land deeded to the church belongs to him. That would be that part of the cemetery that lays between the site where the two churches once stood. (See the maps of this church lot, drawn from the deed and the plot of the general area taken from the College Hill Map in the O. C. Beers Map of Madison County, in 1876 - Mounted on page _____.) The Griggs graves are in the corner nearest the road and nearest the site of the original and present Methodist Church in College Hill, Kentucky.

(LATER: That this cemetery was the private property of Jonas S. Griggs, was finally confirmed beyond a doubt when in 1971, Miss Mattie Grinstead (88 years old) and a step-granddaughter of Jonas S. Griggs, gave me the paper mounted on page _____ of this volume. This paper is a legal document of the Methodist Episcopal (Brick) Church, setting aside part of its "acre more or less" lot, for the use as a cemetery. This paper, dated 1896, states definitely that the cemetery between their lot and that of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (White) is the property of the Jonas S. Griggs heirs, Mr. Griggs having died in 1886.

Since there was no deed to this cemetery and none to the first, and present, Methodist Church in College Hill, Mr. B. C. Edwards and I are now convinced that Jonas S. Griggs gave the land for this (first) church also, just as he gave the land for the cemetery, without the formality of a deed to either.

Evidently Jonas Griggs intended to use this land for a family and community cemetery. A child of his friend, Hiram Duothitt is the oldest grave in the cemetery, this stone is dated _____. Jonas and Lucy Ann Griggs' own ten-month-old daughter, Pen-miller, is the second oldest grave in the cemetery, dated November 19, 1855.

The present wrought-iron gate at the cemetery says it was established in 1855, a conclusion drawn from these first graves, no doubt. After the "Brick Church" was built the land back and to the north of it was also used for cemetery lots. So that all the College Hill Cemetery is really a gift of Jonas S. Griggs and his two wives.

My mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney, told many times of the way the lots in the cemetery were laid off, with a gravel walk around each. Assessments were Fifty Cents (.50¢) per lot per year for upkeep. A white paneled fence marked the roadside edge of the cemetery and a rock-walled, gravel-filled walk ran the length of the cemetery from one church to the other. There was a gate entrance to the cemetery near where the Lucian Griggs grave stone stands, and another gate at the "Brick" church. The white fence continued on beyond that church to the boundary of the church lot.

Jonas Griggs' second wife was the great-niece of the Rev. Lawrence Owen, who came from Maryland in 1786, and established Owen's Meeting House (Methodist) in Clark County, Kentucky, from which the "Great Revival" of _____, according to Redford in his "History of Methodism in Kentucky" began and spread over all the frontier country.

Mary Frances Owen Royston Griggs' grandfather, John Owen, brother to Rev. Lawrence Owen, and who came to Kentucky from Maryland with him, her father and mother, James Wesley Owen and Polly Asbury Powell Owen, were all converts to these early revivals, so that she brought that faith to join that of her husband and his children.

Two of the three letters written by Jonas S. Griggs, that we still have, are written to a Methodist minister and to a group of his fellow church members. They are copied (for this Section) and mounted on page _____ of this volume.

These letters were written only a few months before his death and show his devout faith. He evidently believed in "sanctification" a doctrine that was still preached at Wilmore College in my own youth. In simple words, it was the belief that man could become so good here on earth that he could become "sanctified" and sin no more. This doctrine was one of the great beliefs of many Methodists and others in the latter years of Jonas Griggs' lifetime.

"Giving Thanks" at every meal, reading the Bible and daily family prayers were rigid routine requirements in the Jonas Griggs home. My mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney, although only twelve years old at the time of her parent's death, had much of this faith. I've heard her say, that even in the leanest years of her own family's experience, she never worried "because the Bible says, (Psa. 37:25) 'I have been young and am now old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread.' " She knew her father was a righteous man. She knew that she would never have to beg bread because she was one of his seed!

But not all of Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs' life was without strife and unhappiness. They had married in 1860 at the beginning of the Civil War.

As was all of Kentucky (and the other border States, Madison County was bitterly divided between those who supported the Union and those who gave their allegiance to the Confederacy. The former were non slave-holders and Republicans - the latter were usually slave-holders and of Democratic politics.

That section of Madison County of which the village of Texas (later College Hill) was the center, with no exception this division nor to the bitterness that developed between neighbors, friends and even families. This division and bitterness became even greater after the freeing of the slaves, the ending of the war and the "Reconstruction Years". Slave-holders had been bankrupted financially, were bitter, and blamed their Union-sympathizing neighbors for their plight.

(My two grandfathers were of different religious faiths and different political persuasions - Jonas S. Griggs a pro-Union man, John R. McKinney a Confederate sympathizer.)

Not only was the entire Griggs family devout Republicans, but the entire Owen family from which his wife, Mary Frances Owen Royston Griggs, came, were most definite followers of that political party, and so were all their children. Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs named their oldest son - Charles Lincoln Griggs. Jonas' friend, Dr. Jeremiah Ayres had come from Pennsylvania, via Indiana, in 1860, and three years later married a College Hill girl. (Paranetically, Dr. Ayres had courted Mary Frances Owen Royston briefly before she married Jonas Griggs.) Dr. Ayres, too, was of strong Republican persuasion.

Many, many years later, Dr. Ayres oldest son, Judge Allison T. Ayres, and his oldest son-in-law, Thomas Jefferson McKinney (both of them then living in Howard, Kansas) were not only brothers-in-law, but were close friends and business associates and agreed on all things moral, religious, legal and monetary, but still carried on the political feud of their parents in the long-ago past in the College Hill area.

This division in political faith and religious commitment "came to a head" in the Methodist Episcopal Church in College Hill (or Texas, as it was then). Finally, the pro-slavery group in the church determined to take the Church into the "Methodist Episcopal Church, South (formed in 1845) as had been done or was being done by many Methodist Episcopal churches in Kentucky, and had been done by all the Methodist Episcopal churches in the Confederacy.

(See Dr. J. T. Dorris and Maude Weaver Dorris' book, "Methodism and the Home Church" for the story of this schism.)

Jonas Griggs and his brothers, the Owen family, the Ayres family, the Tribble, Norris and Lewis families opposed this very positively. The climax came one Sunday morning when John Wesley Hisle (grandfather of Owen Hisle and Mrs. James Shannon of present - 1969 - Richmond) shut the door of the College Hill Church and refused admittance to Jonas S. Griggs and his mother-in-law, Polly Asbuzy Powell Owen, wife of James Wesley Owen, all devout members of that Church.

As a result of this schism, Jonas Griggs, Lucian T. Griggs, Noah Griggs, John A. Griggs, Dewitt C. Griggs, (there may be others of the Griggs brothers) Dr. Ayres, the Douthitts, the Wilsons, the Norrises, the Tribbles, Lewises etc. withdrew from this church and formed a new Methodist Episcopal Church. Locally, this church was often spoken of as "The Brick Church" and the other (first) as "The White Church" (frame) but members of each congregation spoke of the others often as "The Northern" and/or "The Southern" church.

Jonas S. Griggs deeded one acre of land on the "other side of the cemetery" to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The deed, recorded in Deed Book No. 15, Page 356 in the Madison County Court Clerk's office, reads as follows:

RECORD OF DEED TO THE TEXAS (Later College Hill) METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From Jonas S. Griggs and Mary, His Wife

(Recorded in Deed Book 15, Page 356, Madison County, Kentucky, Court Records)

This Indenture made and entered into this 20th. day of October, 1866 by and between Jonas S. Griggs and Mary, his wife, of the first part, and Hamilton Norris, Paden F. Adams, and James H. Lewis trustees, intrust for the Methodist Episcopal Church located at Texas, Madison County, Kentucky, of the second part, witnesseth that the Said Jonas S. Griggs and Mary his wife have this day give and bestowed and by these presents do give and bestow and convey unto the said trustees above named for and in consideration of their love and affection for the above named Christian Church, a certain lot in the Village of Texas, Madison County, Kentucky, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake in the middle of the road leading from the Mouth of Red River to the Big Hill, and corner to land of Jonas S. Griggs and the within described lot, and running thence with said road South 29 degrees West 8 1/4 poles to the forks of the road, thence South 62 degrees west 10 1/2 poles to a stake in the middle of said road, thence North 25 1/2 degrees west to a stake, thence North 59 3/4 degrees East 10 1/2 poles, to a stake, thence South 63 degrees East 8 1/2 poles to the beginning containing one acre of land, more or less, to have and to hold the same as trustees for the use of said Church together with the appertnances therewith attached, to their successors in office, and the said Jonas S. Griggs binds himself, his heirs, his executors to warrent and defend the title to said land against the claim or claims of all persons whomsoever. In testimony whereof the said Jonas S. Griggs and wife have affixed their hands and seals this day and year mentioned above.

NOTE: The trustees of the new Methodist Episcopal Church were Hamilton Norris, Paden F. Adams and James H. Lewis; and Jonas S. Griggs and his wife Mary F. Griggs deeded the land for this church to these trustees "in consideration for their love and affection for the above named Christian Church". Jonas Griggs was a trustee also. James W. Owen, elderly and ill, no longer served. John Marsh had "been no longer able to bear the pro-slavery strife" and had moved to anti-slavery country - to Grasshopper Falls, Kansas. That Post Office no longer exists but it was near Topeka. He offered Written testimony in the suit over the parsonage.

The bitterness over the division of the Church was increased when Colby McKinney (brother to my grandfather, John R. McKinney) and a group from the Texas Methodist Episcopal Church, South sued Jonas S. Griggs, W. J. Owen, Hamilton Norris and John Marsh in 1868 for possession of the parsonage bought in 1854. The Circuit Court in Madison County decided in favor of the defendants, that is Jonas S. Griggs et al. But Uncle Colby McKinney and his et al took the case to the Court of Appeals in 1869, which Court of Appeals overruled the Madison Circuit Court and awarded the parsonage to the Southern Church.

The Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, Judge Williams wrote a dissenting opinion, in which he made the following points:

1. Two-thirds of the members of the original Church withdrew or were put out, the Church building went to the remaining one-third.
2. Since those remaining in the original Church had paid, by record, only \$23.00 of the \$250.00 of the cost of the parsonage (and had been reimbursed for that) he thought that those who had already surrendered so much, and had paid for most of the parsonage costs, should have it.

A copy of the Court of Appeals decision with the arguments on both sides, appears in this book on page _____. It is interesting to note that Jonas Griggs' heirs finally deeded his interest in this parsonage (remember the parsonage had been held in the names of the trustees, Griggs, Owen, Norris and Marsh) in October, 1890. The newly formed Methodist Episcopal Church bought a new small parsonage, across the road and a few hundred feet southwest of the Church.

The bricks for the new church were burned in a kiln on Jonas Griggs' land, shown on the D.C. Beers 1876 map as being across the road from his home. The "Brick" Church was the approximate size of the "White" Church of today, but lower of ceiling, with a recessed pulpit, two aisles, and a divided middle section. The women and children sat on the right, the men and boys on the left (as you entered the church) and the "courting couples" and newly-weds in the center. Benches in the right-hand corner were for the choir. The foot-pedaled organ, of my memory, was played by Sally Powell Covington (Mrs. Quinn Covington). Note Jonas Griggs reference to a "division in the church over a musical instrument" in his letter to Rev. Hanks, below.

The "Brick" church was much the stronger of these two little Methodist Churches - separated by the cemetery and by an almost forgotten political bitterness, by the time I knew them.

I do not know about the older children of Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs, but the two youngest, at least, (Fannie Uley and Leatha May) were baptized as infants. A note, in his handwriting, in Jonas Griggs' Family Bible says, "Charley Lincoln Griggs converted and joined the church, Nov. 15, 1874."

NOTE: Jonas Griggs' Bible with the family records, his hymnbook, bearing his name imprinted in gold and his (almost empty now) album for tin-types and small pictures are now in my possession. MFR 1969.

The present white frame church building was erected on the site of the former building, which had burned about 1906. (See the Dorris' book on Church History.) See pictures on Page _____ of this volume.

Both of the College Hill Methodist Churches, in separate Conferences, were on "circuits", and each church had services only once each month. (Owen's Chapel at Pinchem in Clark County was on the circuit with the "Brick" church, since it was a "northern" church also.)

I do not know about all of Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs' children but Annie Royston Grinstead Broadus, Aalice Royston Bonny, James Griggs, Charley Griggs, Mollie Griggs Elkin, Lucian Edward Griggs and Mattie Griggs Hampton, never moved their memberships from the College Hill Methodist Church. Lucy Griggs Owen joined the Owen Chapel Church near her Clark County home. Leatha Griggs McKinney and her husband, David Black McKinney (who had joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at College Hill after his marriage in 1893), moved their memberships to the Richmond Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in August 1916, when their eldest daughter joined that church. (This was ten years after they had moved to Richmond.) They also sold their lot in the College Hill Cemetery about that date.

The story of the division of the two Methodist churches in this small village, separated by their jointly used cemetery, came to an end in 1937 - 70 years after Jonas Griggs donated the land for the "Brick" church when the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were united through-out the nation.

The "Brick" Church was the more attractive of the two buildings. Dr. J. T. and Maude Weaver Dorris say in their book, "The Northern group erected a beautiful brick church"...but the "Brick Church" was in poor physical condition. The brick side walls had "bowed out" and iron rods had been run through to try to control this. So, the "Brick Church" was razed in 1939, and both the "Brick Church" and the "White Church" congregations joined for worship in the "White Church" building.

This is still an active, though very small church, beautifully kept. Pictures of it made in 196__ occur in this volume on page _____. I have not been able to find a picture of the "Brick Church", although a picture of it and one of the former frame church occur opposite page 64 in the Dorris book.

Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs were concerned, with other members of the Community and their Church, for the "schooling" of their children. Thus, through their influence, ^{in 1870} The Methodist Conference agreed to send teachers there for a Seminary, first called "Texas" Seminary, later "College Hill Seminary" and finally, "Ayres Seminary Academy". Why Ayres, rather than Griggs, I do not know since Jonas Griggs was the largest single contributor to the founding, and since he deeded two acres of land to the "Seminary" for the token cost of \$1.00. A list of the donors follows. It will be seen that the Griggs - Owen families bought of the 58 shares and that Dr. Ayres and "Uncle Rubin Elkin" bought 10 more. Shares were sold at \$25.00 each - I presume to erect the Seminary Building.

Jonas S. Griggs.....	7	
Hiram Dauthitt, (J. S. Griggs, Trustee).....	2	
Lucian T. Griggs.....	2	
Ann Elizabeth Royston, (L.T. Griggs, Trustee).....	2]	These two were Mary F.
Aalice Royston, (L. T. Griggs, Trustee).....	2]	Griggs' daughters.

John B. Owen.....	1]	Brother of M. F. Griggs
Francis M. Owen.....	1]	Brother of M. F. Griggs
Dr. J. Ayres.....	6	
Ruben H. Elkin.....	4]	Step-Grandfather of Dr. Ayres' wife
Ezekial Elkin.....	1	
J. S. Paden.....	4	
W. D. Rucker.....	3	
P. F. Adams.....	2	
Woodson Lewis.....	2	
Joe Lewis.....	1	
Asa Lewis.....	1	
Hamilton Norris.....	4	
Simpson Norris.....	1	
Younger Norris.....	1	
M. D. Grinstead.....	2	
Joel P. Powell.....	2	
B. P. Powell.....	1	
J. W. Baber.....	1	
J. D. Bonny.....	1	
Alfred Douglas.....	1	
Allen Douglas.....	1	
S. B. Peirsall.....	1	
H. C. Chamberlain.....	1	

Total of 58 shares at \$25.00 per share = \$1,450.00. Since all the pledges did not pay, Jonas S. Griggs and Dr. Ayres paid for those. A photostatic copy of both lists are included in this volume.

The following men and women were sent to teach in the "Seminary".

Rev. and Mrs. Johnson	Rev. and Mrs. Taylor -	There in 1886. Introduced the organ into the church.
Rev. Mr. Ramey		
Rev. Herrem	Rev. and Mrs. Hanks -	Before 1886, seem to have been favorites.
Rev. Barnett		
Miss Josie Parker and her sister from Somerset - taught music.		

No dates are known for any of these, except as noted, only I believe the Johnsons were the first assignees. Nor do I know when the "Seminary" was abandoned by the Church and became a county school. A residence (see picture on page _____) converted from the school building, now occupies the 2 acres which Jonas Griggs donated to the Seminary. Pictures of some of these preachers-teachers occur on page _____ of this volume.

Jonas Griggs and his brother, Lucian T. Griggs, were leaders in getting a Post Office for College Hill. Lucian T. Griggs, who was postmaster at Waco, approved the application of Walter K. Norris to be the first Postmaster of College Hill. This Post Office was located in Jonas S. Griggs' store, shown by the 1876 map as being a few hundred feet from his home on the same side of the road. Three postmasters served in this building, even after Jonas Griggs' death, until the Post Office was moved to Dr. Ayres "drug store" in 1889. Records furnished by the National Archives and Record Service are attached. They confirm the family story that the name of the village of "Texas" had to be changed to "College Hill" when the Post Office was established, since a Post Office in Washington County, Kentucky, already had the name of "Texas".

The Story of "Bith"

Here seems to be the appropriate place to tell the story of "Bith", (Tabitha Jackson after she married.) Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs made one of their visits to his daughter, Sara Bird Griggs Rucker and her husband, Irving Cole Rucker at Silver Creek (a tiny village in southern Madison County) where "Cole" Rucker was the gauger for the Hume Distillery located there. On their way, they stopped by Mary Frances Griggs' farm which she had inherited from her first husband. Somewhere between these two places, or near the farm, a negro woman had died leaving one or more fatherless children. One, or the only one, of these children or child, was a little girl named "Tabitha". Even as I wrote this in the summer of 1969, one of "Bith's" sons, Dr. Raymond Jackson, Ph. D and Associate Dean of Tuskegee Institute, stopped to see me. He said his mother was 12 years old when she went to the Griggs home, but I think that is an error, since that would mean that she came only two years before Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs' deaths. I am sure she was much younger, not more than eight years old. Jonas and Mary Frances took this little girl home with them. She rode on a little stool, placed between their feet, riding with her back to the dash-board.

Jonas Griggs had "Bith" bound to him, a legal process of indenture, under which he agreed to furnish her a home, clothes, feed and educate her, and she in turn, must obey him, etc. until she was 16 or 18 years old - I'm not sure which.

I never heard a surname for "Bith" until she married. I never thought to ask my Mother or my aunt Mattie Griggs Hampton, what name she went by, and I had not had the nerve to ask her children. But at the suggestion of Attorney George T. Ross who was working in the County Clerk's office when I was working there, I checked the colored marriage records and found her maiden name to be "Tabitha Turner". Her father, so all the neighbors of her mother said, was Mr. Brutus White, a very prominent land-owner and farmer in the neighborhood where her mother lived and died. Brutus White was the father of Miss Leigh White (my fifth-grade teacher), of Miss Martha White and Mrs. Burton Roberts (living today - 1969), Mrs. Irvine White, Taylor White, Stewart White, Harris White and others.

I am sure this story had merit, because when "Bith" came to my parent's Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration in 1943 - a nice-looking, well-dressed, nicely-mannered, mulatto woman of 70 years of age, she bore a strong resemblance to the known daughters of Brutus White.

At that time, Mary Collins Fyfe, a light mulatto woman was helping us. She knew "Bith", and that reminded Mother to tell me that Mary Fyfe's father-in-law, old "Irv" Fyfe had been kin to "Bith" and had at one time tried to get her away from Jonas Griggs' control. Since Brutus White had a son named "Irvine" White, and a grandson named "Fyfe" White, and since "Bith's" mother had been a slave and since slaves took the surnames of their owners, there was some relationship among these three families - White, Irvine and Fyfe - and "Bith's" mother and the old negro, "Irv" Fyfe.

There was a Negro settlement at College Hill, with a negro church and a negro one-room school. "Bith" attended the church and school, but went mostly to the white Methodist Episcopal Church at night.

She was born in 1872, and was thus two years older than my mother, Leatha May Griggs. Since Fannie Uley Griggs, who was born three years before Leatha May, had died six months before Leatha May was born, and since Leatha was six years younger than her brother Ed, and eight years younger than her sister Mattie, she and "Bith" were nearer the same age and all her stories of her childhood were of what "Bith" and I did." (See STORIES MY MOTHER TOLD ME). "Bith" always slept in the same room with Leatha and/or Mattie, shared the household chores and other activities, although she did not eat with the family. She visited the married children of Jonas and Mary Frances along with LEATHA.

One Christmas Jonas bought pictures for Charlie (A Currier and Ives, called "Little Charles"), for Edward, (A religious picture, which I now have), for Mattie (Another Currier and Ives, called "Little May Blossom" which I now have) and for Leatha and "Bith", 'identical dolls'. When the three younger children had a picture made by a photographer, one was made of "Bith" at the same time. "Bith's" hair in this picture is dressed in the same style as Mattie's and Leatha's.

Jonas Griggs had planned to send "Bith" to Berea Academy at Berea, Kentucky, since this school accepted negroes at that time, as soon as she "finished" the negro school at College Hill. This was cancelled by his death when "Bith" was 14 years old.

Sometime after "Bith" came to the Griggs home, Jonas and Mary Frances visited relatives at Irvine - or in Estill County. They brought home with them another little negro orphan girl, named Sally. She evidently didn't have the heritage of "Bith" because they could not control her. "Bith" would have nothing to do with her. Leatha Griggs McKinney remembers her sister Mattie, taking Sally to the wash-house, clipping her head, and then dousing it with coal-oil to kill the lice and nits in her hair. Sally resisted this most vigorously, as she did all other efforts to clean her up and train her. So to everyone's relief, Jonas took or sent her back to where he had gotten her.

See page _____ for the story of "Bith" and her life after she married. She lived with the Griggs' children after Jonas' and Mary Frances' deaths in 1866 for four years, until she was 18 years old. She left to work "for wages" in one of the Hisle homes for a short time before she married "Jim" Jackson, when she was still 18 years old.

One of the events in Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs' family and social life that later influenced greatly the lives of their children was when Mary Frances Griggs' first cousin, Hezekiah Stapleton Owen and his wife, Rebecca Cole Owen moved from their home in Clark County to College Hill in order to send their children, John Clifton "Cliff" Owen, Lew Wallace Owen, Kate Owen, and Betty Hooker Owen to the College Hill Seminary or Ayres Academy, whichever name it bore at that time.

I do not know how many years they lived there, but they were living there sometime before Lucy Ann Griggs married John Clifton Owen on March 3, 1881, and they were living there when Mary Frances Griggs and Jonas Griggs died in 1886.

I don't think John Clifton Owen went to school there too long before he and Lucy Ann married and went to live in the family home in Clark County. Whether Hezekiah's sisters, Betsy and Sallie, who lived with him in Clark County, under the terms of his father, Horatio Owen's will, were in College Hill or whether they stayed in Clark County, I do not know.

Hezekiah's and Rebecca's daughter, Kate Owen, married Beda Grinstead, (brother of George Grinstead who married Ann Elizabeth Royston) of College Hill. She died in childbirth there, and she and the baby are buried there in the College Hill Cemetery.

Betty Hooker Owen married Bruce Adams, son of Rev. P. F. Adams of College Hill. I think the family opposed this marriage. At any rate, after the birth and death of their child (buried in the College Hill Cemetery) Betty Hooker returned to her parent's home and divorced Bruce Adams. Later she went to Bloomington, Illinois, where she lived for many years with a widower Uncle. After his death, she returned to her parents home in Clark County for a number of years, "then, when past middle age," married Frank Morgan of Bloomington, Illinois and lived the rest of her life there.

Wallace Owen never married, though he was a "beau" to many girls. He and Amos McKinney ran a store in College Hill for a while (I think in Jonas Griggs' building). He taught school for a few years. He was a very unusual person with many unusual talents.

In later years he was an actor on the legitimate stage in New York for many years, coming back to his father's home in Clark County in the summer to raise the flower and vegetable gardens, mow the lawns, etc. In between, he carved wood, painted china, made furniture, etc.

The Owen family home was just across the road from the Griggs home. This was the house that Lucian T. Griggs bought for Jonas Griggs' younger children after the Jonas Griggs' home burned in 1887. (See Executor's Settlement on page _____)

Wallace Owen, with his many talents and out-going personality, was putting on a play at the 'School House' in July 1886. The play was, "Ten Nights in a Bar Room". L. Edward Griggs was the man in the bar-room. The Play was in full swing, when someone came to tell Ed Griggs that his mother was hemorrhaging and for him to come at once. Mary Frances Griggs died July 7, 1886. She, too, was buried in the College Hill Cemetery, with space for Jonas Griggs between her grave and the grave of his first wife, Lucy Ann Griggs. Her grave stone, the same size as that of Lucy Ann, reads:

Mary F.
Wife of J. S. Griggs
Born
August 7, 1834
Died
July 17, 1856.

Sweet Mother, dear, they work is o'er
The impress of thy soul is here
But thee, alas, we see no more
Oh, may the teaching of thy love
Through life's darkness, a beacon be,
Whose light shall guide our steps above
And lead us safe in Heaven with thee.

Jonas S. Griggs' was in ill health. Note the clipping on page _____ concerning Mary Frances Griggs' death, a line of which reads:

"At one time it was thought by many that Mr. Griggs would died at the same time, but he was spared and his wife taken. We are glad to say he is improving and is now able to take a buggy ride every morning."

Note also the letters mounted on page _____ and copied below, in which Jonas speaks of his ill health, and which show his devout faith.

Collage Hill, June 1, 1886

Dear Brother Hanks:

I have thought for a long time I would rite to you but put it off from time to time as we do many things. Hope this will find you & family all well and thy souls prospering. We are all well except me & wife. She is not well & I have not been well since January. Have not bin able to (attend to) any business much & I feel on the decline. I feel as the time is coming fast when I shall depart & be with Christ which is better: Though we can not tell what our Father is going to do with us, we feel perfectly willing to trust Him for life or death. I have a sweet peace that passeth all understanding Praise the Lord.

Hope you and Ball are enjoying full salvation and are doing the work of an evangelist making full proof of the Gospel committed to thy trust. Would say that our church is somewhat split up on the organ question Bro. Taylor has introduced it in the church service and it has caused some trouble though I praise the Lord there is a few names of us that count these things above us.

I hear Bro. Barnett has left his work and gone to teaching. Oh how sorry I am that Bro. Barnett refused to do what the Lord called him to do - preach a full and complete salvation. There is no doubt in my mind but the Lord called Bro. Barnett to preach Sanctification & he refused to do it, therefore the whale has swallowed him. I pray that when he vomits him up he will go to Ninevah & preach. Dont you never let the fish get you, but preach sanctification & a sinless and holy life. It is God's truth when and by whom-so-ever it is preached. We would all love to see you and your family very much

Well, I feel so feeble I will have to lie down I will close by asking you to remember me at the throne of grace and if it is His will to restore me to health amen & if not amen. I feel like I want His will and not mine in the matter. Write to me soon & let me know how you are getting along. I close by saying God bless you and wife & fill your souls full of that sweet peace that is for all God's Saints, Praise the Lord.

J. S. Griggs

The above letter is addressed to Rev. L. P. Hanks at Barbourville, Kentucky. On the envelope, someone, evidently Mr. Hanks, wrote 'Dear Bro. Griggses letter'. Evidently Rev. Hanks sent the letter to Mattie E. Griggs from whom I got it.

The second letter (really a note) was written to a prayer group of the Methodist Episcopal Church of College Hill. Evidently his younger brother, Lucian T. Griggs was also a member of this group and the message was sent by him. Lucian T. Griggs sent this note to Jonas' daughter, Mattie E. Griggs, on December 27, 1904 with the comment, "Enclosed you will find a short peace of writing written by your Pa to some members of his Church. I though you would love to have a few words of his sayings."

The "few words of his sayings" follow:

College Hill, June 5, 1886

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Would like to be with you all tonight but flesh is too weak though spirit is willing. Be faithful Little Band, it won't be long if faithful untill we will meet in glory: Stand firm, definite in your testimony. God wants clear witness for his truth. Never mind what the world or the unbelievers may say, may the Lord keep you faithful: if it is agreeable would like to have the next meeting at my house. Praise the Lord.

J. S. Griggs

P.S. When on your knees, remember me, one of the weakest

J. S. Griggs

I have a small footstool which his daughter, Mattie, made for her father, out

of a small wooden box and which she covered with red velvet on which she painted flowers, (from my mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney).

On Jonas' birthday, August 31, 1886, (some six weeks after Mary Frances Griggs' death) he had all the children come home for this day. I've heard my mother and Auntie (Mattie Griggs Hampton) tell many times that all the children and their wives and/or husbands, and every grandchild was present. Mattie Grinstead (86 years old in 1969) says she can't remember going, but heard her mother tell often of going and taking all her family of 7 children to this birthday (60th). Sara Bird Griggs Rucker and husband, I. C. Rucker had 11 children at this time (they had 15 in all). One of these children was an afflicted girl named Hettie (10 years old, and who fortunately died young). They brought Hettie on a "pallet" in a spring wagon. William T. Griggs had only one son, Hubert, at that time. Mollie Griggs Elkin had two children, Gilbert and Ruth. Charlie Griggs had one daughter, Mary Owen.

It was at this birthday that the "children" went together and gave their father the maple rocking chair that is now in my possession.

Jonas Griggs wasn't able to be up much after this date. He wrote his will and prepared for death. He talked much to his children, especially the three youngest at home, and to his brother Lucian T. Griggs about what he wanted done after he was gone.

Then on November 11, 1886, some ten weeks after his 60th birthday, Jonas S. Griggs went to join Lucy Ann and Mary Frances before his Savior's throne that he believed in so devoutly. He was buried in the College Hill Cemetery between Lucy Ann and Mary Frances. His tombstone the same size as theirs, reads:

Jonas S. Griggs
Born
Aug. 31, 1826
Died
Nov. 11, 1886

"He died in a sure and certain hope of eternal life, through the atonement and mediation of a crucified Savior"

The tributes on their tombstones were not the only tributes the children of Jones and Mary Frances Griggs paid their "Pa and Ma". With the exception of one act (the entailing of Lucy Griggs Owen's property (see discussion under Lucy Ann Griggs Owens history) their children, even until old age, always thought and spoke of their parents as all-good, all-wise individuals, and "Pa always said" or "Ma thought" influenced them throughout their long lives. And they did have long lives because Jonas' and Mary Frances' surviving children with the exceptions of Charlie (42), Annie Royston Grinstead Broadus (64) and Mollie Elkin (68), all lived past their allotted three-score and ten years. Sara Bird Rucker (77), William Taylor Griggs (80), Mattie E. Griggs Hampton (81) and Leatha May Griggs McKinney (86) lived from 7 to 16 years past their Biblically allotted time. With the exception of Charlie who was killed by a mule, all the children mentioned in Jonas Griggs' will, lived much longer than did their beloved "Pa" (60) and "Ma" (52).

The Jonas S. Griggs Home - 1866-1893

In his will Jonas S. Griggs provided that his home place, which was all the land he owned outside his partnership land with his brother Lucian T. Griggs, together with his household and kitchen furniture and farming utensils be kept for the use, control and the occupancy of his three youngest children, Mattie, Edward (he is called Edmend and Edwin at different places in the will) and Leatha May until Leatha May should be 18 years of age. (She was not yet 12 years old when her Pa died). He explains "My object and intention being to provide my three children aforesaid with a home and means of support until the time my daughter Leatha May Griggs will become 18 years of age, provided she lives."

All the jointly held property and the personal property not specifically reserved for the three youngest children was to be sold at the death of his wife or at his death whichever came last. The home place, household and kitchen furniture and farming utensils were to be sold when Leatha May was 18 on December 4, 1892. All proceeds from both sales were to be divided among all his children equally - with certain advanced monies charged against W. T. Griggs and Sara Bird Rucker. He lists his children as, Sara Bird Rucker, W. T. Griggs, Lucy Ann Owen, Mollie Elkin, Charles L. Griggs, Mattie Griggs, Edward Griggs, and Leatha May Griggs.

His brother, Lucian T. Griggs was his executor and guardian-trustee for the three younger children. Lucian T. Griggs moved quickly to carry out his brother's will. This is attested to by the sale bill (see page _____) in which he offered the stock for sale on December 15, 1866, only 34 days after the death of Jonas S. Griggs. The two life insurance policies Jonas Griggs mentions in his will were collected and divided among the children with Lucian T. Griggs keeping control of the part belonging to the minor children. (See photostatic copy of Lucian T. Griggs settlement of this part of the estate, the first of three settlements he made with the Madison County Court.)

Jonas Griggs provided that his land held jointly with his brother Lucian, should be sold at public or private sale, as his executor judged to be the best interest of his estate. I never heard this discussed by the family but Lucian Griggs and Jonas owned much land between Waco and College Hill and Lucian's final report to the Court shows that he and his brother D. C. Griggs bought some of this land. Other lands and the house were sold to George Cinter whose heirs still own it. Leatha May Griggs received her part of the estate when she married in 1893. But Lucian T. Griggs still owed Mattie and Ed Griggs (they had not married) when he wrote them and paid off their notes in January, 1903. (See letters on page _____).

Annie Royston Grinstead was not listed in Jonas S. Griggs will. At the death of her mother, she inherited her mother's part as well as her own from her father John S. Royston's estate.

Thus, Mattie Griggs (20), Ed Griggs (18) and Leatha May Griggs (12) and the colored girl, Bith (14), made up the Jonas S. Griggs home from November 1866 to March 16, 1893, a little more than six years.

It was these years that my mother, Leatha May and Auntie Mattie Griggs Hampton remembered most vividly and talked about most frequently.

Most parents today would hesitate to leave three young people to make a home - Mattie Griggs always said she was her father's favorite child, that he depended upon her after her Ma's death, had faith in her and trusted her to carry out his wishes, about which he talked frankly to her.

Leatha May and Bith went to school whenever those brief sessions were held, and both were taught, usually after the short public school sessions were over or in the spring. Ed and Leatha May attended "subscription" schools (see picture on page _____). These sessions lasted only a few weeks. I believe Ayres Academy sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Church had been turned over to the public school system before, or shortly after the death of Jonas S. Griggs.

The tragedy of their parents death in 1866 was compounded for the children in the home when the house burned to the ground in 1887 - only one year later.

They never knew how it caught on fire, but it was thought someone was stealing from the basement and overturned a lantern or something since the fire started in or under the kitchen. I believe it was on a Sunday night in the fall of the year. Since the back of the house had burned first, they were able to save only the parlor furniture. One item

they saved was an organ. Leatha May sold this for \$25.00 to "Mag" (Mrs/ E. M. Rupard) at the sale of the stock, farm equipment, furniture, etc. when the McKinney's moved to Richmond in the fall of 1906. Other furniture saved from the fire consisted of a marble-topped walnut dresser and table (now in the possession of Morris Swofford) and six walnut, cane-bottomed straight chairs (now one each in the possession of Mary F. Richards, Walker M. Swofford, David H. McKinney, Martha Swofford McDavitt and Morris Swofford).

The young family, having only the night-clothes which they were wearing, went to "Brother Willie's" at Elliston. W. T. Griggs was running the mill there which he and "Uncle Lute" owned and operated. His second wife, Nannie Embry, pregnant with her first child, Paul, sewed for them for several weeks until they all had a few clothes. The neighbors and friends all helped. I remember a quilt the College Hill girls made for Ed Griggs of woollen and velvet scraps, each girl embroidering her name on the squares she made. I remember other quilts that were similarly made by friends.

"Uncle Lute" rented the M.E. Church parsonage, a very small house of not more than four rooms. This parsonage was available because Rev. Fred Grider, who had been assigned to College Hill previously, owned his own home there and so declined the use of the small parsonage.

"Uncle Lute" added to the salvaged parlor furniture six maple and oak dining room chairs (now in my breakfast room), a table, two walnut beds (Morris Swofford has one of these beds and Martha S. McDavitt has the other), a lounge (twin-sized bed) for Bith (Mrs. Walker M. Swofford now has this) and of course, a stove and the necessary utensils.

I remember only one story of the short time they lived in this small parsonage. The marble-topped dresser was placed facing the front door. This screenless door was kept open in the summer. A pet lamb they were raising (Mattie Griggs raised pet lambs all of her life!) walked up on the small porch, saw his image in the mirror of the marble-topped dresser, backed off, took a running start and attacked head-on his image, shattering the mirror.

As soon as the Hezekiah S. Owen family removed back to Clark County, "Uncle Lute" bought for the young Griggs family, that house. It is a long, weather-boarded log house with three front doors, and is still standing. (See picture of present house on page _____).

Here, in a large house, Mattie rented rooms and ran a boarding house. The only permanent boarder I remember who lived there for years, was a Dr. Dodge, who came to College Hill to help Dr. Jeremiah Ayres. There were ministers, teachers, drummers and "other temporary residents" in and out for all the years the Griggs "Children" lived in College Hill.

See Lucian T. Griggs second report to the Madison County Court in which he reports on the fire, collecting \$2,000.00 insurance and selling \$4.50 worth of burned brick and also buying the home for the children.

Mattie was a very pretty and vivacious young woman and evidently very popular, and especially so with the young men. As I look through the pictures in her album and those of Leatha May McKinney and Lucy Owen, I find several pictures inscribed, "beau of Mattie Griggs". There are so many of these that I am sure all of them could not have been very serious "beaus".

This seems as good a place as any to list these men because all of this "courting" was done at College Hill, both before and after the death of Jonas Griggs.

Wesley McKinney, first cousin of my father, David B. McKinney

Henry C. Butler

Thomas J. McKinney, older brother of my father, David B. McKinney

"Bunk" Wallace - he was from Irvine

Bob Owen - Number _____ in the Owen genealogy.

He was _____ cousin.

Cicero Barnett

Then there was old "Uncle Cap" Webber, who lived with his maiden sister, Miriam, and was old enough to be Mattie's father (see note page _____) and whom Mattie giggled about but never took seriously.

None of these were serious beaus except perhaps "Bunk" Wallace and certainly Bob Owen, though, through all her life Aunt Fanny Ayres McKinney was irritated at Mattie Griggs Hampton's oft and tactlessly repeated story, that when Tom (T. J.) McKinney had wanted to

marry her, she told him to go court and marry Fanny Ayres -- which he did!

But Bob Owen courted her seriously for a long time and was definitely engaged to her at one time. He gave her a beautiful silver canister set which I have and which is engraved "Mattie, Xmas 1883" - when she was 17 years old. He also gave her the elaborate, red-velvet covered, intricate, brass-hinged and locked photograph album which I also have now. Then he gave her a small diamond ring which she wore as a ring long after her marriage, until she finally had it reset in a platinum bar pin, which she promptly lost in the chicken yard, she thought, but which we never found though we searched diligently for years.

I believe this and all the other courtships with the aforementioned men had come to an end before she moved to Winchester in 1893 and met A. Howard Hampton. I do not know how long he courted her before they became engaged (for 10 years) in 1897 (married in 1907).

One of the stories of Mattie Griggs' courtships concerns the time "Bunk" Wallace came from Irvine (or Estill County) to take her to the Madison County Fair at Richmond -- a really big event in those days. Mattie had on her best ruffled, tucked and lace-trimmed white dress underlaid with similarly trimmed "corset-cover" and petticoats. She wore a flower and fruit decorated summer straw hat. "Bunk" was attired in his best, had his buggy polished to the Nth degree and was driving a fancy buggy mare. But even the best of mares get thirsty on long trips, so "Bunk" stopped to water his mare at the creek which flowed along the turnpike (the Madison roads were toll roads in those days) near where the Richmond City reservoir is now located. In some way, the mare jumped to one side, and the buggy which was already on a slant, turned on its side spilling Mattie into the creek.

But being one not easily daunted, she came on to Richmond to her "Brother Willie's" home which at that time was on a steep bank across from where the Richmond Cemetery is. In fact, the Muncy Furniture Store tore down the house and reduced the high lot to street level several years ago (1969). There "Sister Nannie" helped Mattie repair the damages, loaned some items of clothing, I believe, and Mattie and "Bunk" went on to enjoy all the excitement of the Fair for the day.

Ed Griggs also did his share of courting, both before and after the death of Jonas Griggs, though I now know the names of only two of the young ladies. One, _____ later married a man named Hamilton. In 1915, Alliston T. Ayres, on a visit to Kentucky, bringing his niece Leeta McKinney with him, took Leeta, _____ Hamilton's daughter and me to a photographer and had a picture made of the daughters of three former College Hill girls, Fannie Ayres (McKinney), _____ (Hamilton) and Leatha May Griggs (McKinney). See picture, page _____.

The most serious courtship of Ed Griggs was with Nannie Ayres, the third oldest of Dr. and Mrs. Jeremiah Ayres' nine children who lived to ripe maturity or old age. Nannie Ayres was a very talented and attractive young woman, she was small in size as were all the Ayres family. Nannie, I believe, attended Depaw University at Greencastle, Indiana (a Methodist College, of course). Not all graduated there. Whether Nannie Ayres had been to Depaw before Ed Griggs left College Hill (at the age of 23) I am not certain but somewhere she had studied art in its various forms. Many of the nieces and nephews in the Ayres family have pictures (mostly really good water-colors) that "Aunt Nannie" did. Too, she had learned wood carving and taught this art to Wallace Owen - and perhaps others - who knows? The nieces and nephews have many pieces of "Aunt Nannie's" carving varying from a sideboard that the Buford McKinney family has to picture frames.

While Ed Griggs was courting Nannie Ayres, he and Wallace Owen (then of College Hill) and a cousin, Fred Owen of Clark County, made a trip to Niagara Falls and had their picture made with this scenic wonder in the background. Nannie Ayres carved a gift frame for Ed for this picture.

How serious this courtship was, I do not know. I do know that Ed Griggs' wife, Mary Smith Griggs (whom he met and married after he left College Hill) was always jealous of Nancy Ayres and Ed, therefore they never took his picture and its carved frame. Mattie Griggs Hampton kept it until her death. It came to me then and hangs in our guest room. The picture is mounted on page _____ of this volume.

Leatha Griggs grew from childhood to young woman-hood in this parent-less home. She never mentioned any "beau" except Fred Owen, a distant cousin from Clark County, and a good friend of her brother, Edward Griggs.

Then David B. McKinney, "Dave", came to College Hill from his home down on the river. He came to attend Ayres Acadmy and worked to pay his expenses by clerking in Mr. Bob Engle's store. Mr. Engle was the father of Mrs. Elbe; Whittington of Richmond. They were new-comers, from Estill County, to College Hill. Mr. Engle had been married before and the community felt that his second wife abused her stepchildren, none of whom were exceptionally "bright" especially a boy named, "Tom".

It was while attending school there, that Dave McKinney met and courted Leatha May Griggs. They were married March 16, 1893 when Dave was 24 years old and Leatha but 18 years old. Since her father's will provided for the breaking up of the home as soon as was practical, the home and other property were sold immediately after the wedding. Mattie went to Winchester to live and work and Ed went, eventually, to Mt. Sterling to live. He traveled for a number of years for Curry, Tunis and Norwood, a wholesale grocery firm in Lexington.

Leatha and Dave took most of the furniture from the home, since that had been purchased with a part of the estate belonging to Mattie, Ed and Leatha. Later, after Mattie married, she took her part of the furniture and part of Ed's, but I believe he took very little of these household furnishings. He and his wife lived for a time in her parents home and his wife didn't want or need his furniture.

Jonas Griggs had given all his children, when they married a featherbed, a horse, saddle and the girls each got 6 fiddle-back sterling teaspoons. Uncle "Lute" provided these for the three younger children, before the division of the estate among all Jonas Griggs heirs (see his third settlement). Walker Swofford, David McKinney and I each have one of the spoons given Leatha Griggs McKinney. Somehow three had been lost over the years. Leatha used hers and they show wear. I have the six spoons given Mattie Griggs Hampton, which have been used very little. All are engraved with the owner's monogram.

Lucian Griggs sold Jonas S. Griggs' estate. He bought much of the jointly owned lands. (See blue-print of 1876 map of Madison County showing these lands.) He divided this estate equally among the heirs. Mattie and Ed loaned their money to Uncle "Lute" for years. (See the Lucian T. Griggs story in the Griggs-Owen History Volume.)

Each heir used his or her inheritance as he or she saw fit with one exception.

Jonas S. Griggs put restrictions on the money he left to his daughter, Lucy Ann Griggs. She had married John Clifton Owen and moved into the Horatio Owen home in Clark County. This home was then owned by Horatio's son, Hezekiah, with the understanding that Hezekiah would furnish a home for his sisters, Elizabeth (Aunt Bet) and Sarah (Aunt Sal). In addition to them, Hezekiah and his wife, Rebecca Cole Owen, there lived there the daughter, Elizabeth, who had divorced Bruce Adams and returned to her father's home and Wallace Owen, who never married and made that home his until he died there in 1922. Later, although Jonas could not have foreseen this, Rebecca and Hezekiah took two orphan great-nieces of Rebecca's into their home. They became the foster daughters of John Clifton and Lucy Ann Griggs Owen.

Jonas Griggs, realizing that since Lucy Ann had had no children in the first six years of her married life, that she probably would have none, and that her inheritance would be swallowed up in the over-all Hezekiah Owen estate, provided that her estate be invested in real-estate, and that if she died with no living heirs, her estate should be returned to his heirs.

So Hezekiah deeded several acres of the Owen farm to Lucy. "Aunt Bet" and "Aunt Sal" died early in the 1900's. Then in 1922 Wallace died of tuberculosis, then Hezekiah passed on as did Rebecca two or three years later. One of Lucy Ann and John Clifton's foster-daughters, Lucie Jones, had married Ben Owen and was rearing a family. The other, Rebecca Jones, still lived in the Owen home. Then John Clifton Owen died of a heart-attack while picking blackberries on a hot day in July, _____.

Lucy Ann's brother, L. Ed Griggs was made executor or administrator (I don't know which). He found the estate greatly in debt. "Cliff" Owen was a hard worker, but a poor manager and too much given to "keeping up with the Jones's" - in this case Mattie Griggs and her husband Howard Hampton.

Howard Hampton was a very wealthy but besides was a very conservative man. Still when Mattie Griggs Hampton bought her first car (with her own money) in 1920, "Cliff" Owen had to have one immediately. Mattie always drove hers up the steep 3/4 mile private road to her "Hill Top" home in low gear. "Cliff" drove his up in high gear to show he had a better car (a Hudson) than Mattie had (hers was a Buick) or that he was a better driver.

When the Hamptons' built a new house in 1918 with bathrooms and a Delco light plant, "Cliff" Owen immediately put in a bath, a Delco plant and had the Owen home wired for electric lights, etc.

True, he didn't have as much land or capital with which to work and he had a large family to feed and clothe and they all wanted the best. He and Lucy sent the foster-daughters, Lucie and Rebecca, to Kentucky Wesleyan College and were generous with all their relatives.

Despite Lucy Ann Owens and Rebecca Jones' insistence that they could run the farm, it had to be sold (Howard Hampton bought it) to pay off the mortgages. Lucy Ann's acreage and similar acreages deeded to the Jones sisters, was all they got from the estate. Rebecca Jones was especially hurt and angry about this matter and an estrangement grew between Mattie Griggs Hampton and Rebecca Jones especially and Lucy Ann and Lucie Jones Owen to a lesser extent, that saddened the later years of all these devoted members of the family.

Rebecca Jones and Lucy Ann Owen bought a house and lot on the edge of Winchester. The house and the lot surrounding it was deeded to Rebecca (later to Lucie and Ben Owen) and the large unimproved half of the lot was deeded to Lucy Ann Owen.

It was this lot, that in 1968 (after more than 40 years of uselessness) that was finally sold to a Mr. Billy Thomas and the proceeds divided among the heirs of Jonas S. Griggs, as per his will.

The list worked up by Mr. Thomas in trying to acquire this lot (he owned adjoining property) is given on page _____ of this book. Mr. Thomas paid \$3,000.00 cash over and above all expenses, genealogists, taxes, legal fees, correspondence, telephone calls, etc. for this lot.

Thus was the final directive of Jonas S. Griggs' will carried to completion!

STORIES MY MOTHER TOLD ME

These stories, told me by my Mother, Leatha Griggs McKinney, (and some by my Aunt Mattie Griggs Hampton and one by my cousin, Mattie Grinstead) not only relate incidents, but they illustrate the life of the era in which they occurred and as a sidelight herein, one can see the community and the people of College Hill in the time of Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs.

"Wool - Picking"

This story concerns "Bith" and Leatha, two little girls, one colored and two years older than her white friend. They were often set at the task of picking wool. After shearing the sheep, the wool was washed to remove as much of the grease (Lanolin) as was possible. Then the briars, burrs, stick-tights, etc. had to be "picked" from the wool. Wearying of this tedious and arduous task, "Bith" and Leatha often found it convenient to push the wool through ventilators (brick, I should guess) in the foundation of the "new" house.

When the house burned in 1887 ("Bith" 15 years, Leatha 13 years) for some reason the back corner of the house wasn't consumed in the flames and in that corner was a quantity of "unpicked" wool.

"A Journey To Silver Creek"

This story also concerns "Bith" and Leatha. They were allowed to go visit "Sister Bird" (Sara Bird Rucker) at Silver Creek. They started early in the morning aboard the broad back of an old brood mare followed, as was customary, by her mule colt. They carried a lunch and were supposed to arrive well before dark. (The distance through Richmond would have been 20 miles or more, but "caty-cornered" as they traveled it, it was somewhat less.)

Imagine letting two little girls go that distance alone today! And I doubt if "Sister Bird" was even expecting them!

Leatha rode in front with "Bith" behind her. Probably in a flat-footed walk they traveled. But near Moberly, Kentucky (the road by land which is now in the control of the Blue Grass Ordnance) they noticed that the colt was "sweating", so they climbed off the mare and roosted on the fence, to let the colt rest. They might have been there all day and all night, too, if a man hadn't come along, asked them why they were there and when told, he assured them that the colt was not "sweating" but shedding his baby woolly coat and advised them to get along to Paint Lick.

"Leatha's First Train"

It was at "Sister Bird's" where Leatha Griggs saw her first train. She had gone there with her parents, Jonas and Mary Frances Griggs. They got her up very early in the morning to go out and see the train go by. This was, I suppose, the famous "Old Henry", now defunct for 60 years, that ran from Richmond to Lancaster, round trip each day. It was Lancaster, Kentucky's only train and carried freight or baggage car or cars and one passenger coach. This was when "Bird" and "Cole" Rucker lived at Silver Creek.

"Leatha's and Eva's Skating Experience"

Leatha Griggs and Eva Ayres (who was two years Leatha's junior) were close friends from early girlhood throughout their long lives, both lived to be in their late eighties (Leatha 86 and Eva 88).

There was a pond near the school that afforded ice-skating (without skates) often in the winters. But this time it was thawing and Leatha, at least, had been told to stay off the pond. However, it was too tempting on the way home, Leatha and Eva had to try it. No, they didn't crash through, but Brother Ed saw Leatha and reported to his Mother, so Leatha got a good paddling when she got home. Disobedience wasn't tolerated!

"Leatha's Petticoats"

For some reason, she never knew why in later years, Leatha Griggs put on every petticoat she had one day and wore them to school. Now, petticoats in those days were very full, with lots of ruffles, much starch and required hours upon hours of ironing with flat-irons heated on a wood-burning stove or fireplace and the washing and ironing of a petticoat wasn't to be taken lightly. Leatha (when she was a grandmother) thought maybe her dresses hadn't "stood-out" the way some of the other girls did. At any rate she donned them all. She took her lunch, but evidently Brother Ed went home for his. Whether he tattled or whether her Mother had missed the undergarments, I don't know, but Ed returned at noon with the announcement, "Ma is going to whip you good for wearing all those petticoats". So Leatha spent an afternoon of dread - and then a scolding was all she received!

"Ed's Big Gut"

But Ed wasn't always the bearer of threatened punishment. Sometimes he was the receiver.

In those days it was customary in the evenings, for neighbors to "go sit until bedtime" with one another. The women usually brought their knitting or quilt pieces along. The men "talked shop", discussed the local news, and reviewed the news in the latest edition of the weekly newspaper from Richmond. The children played outside in warm weather, or in the back of the room in the winter-time, while their elders sat around the fireplace or the stove.

Simple refreshments were sometimes served in season, apples, cider, popcorn, nuts, etc.

On the evening of our story "Uncle Ruben" Elkin and his wife were there. She was the former Mrs. Douthitt, grandmother of the Ayres children, and "Uncle Reuben" was her second husband whom the Ayres children loved devotedly, much more so than they had loved their own grandfather, J. B. Douthitt. As usual, some of the Ayres children were with them.

During the evening, "Uncle Reuben's" bowels began to growl as they often do with the elderly who have gaseous stomachs.

Ed Griggs, in the back of the room, said in a stage whisper to one of the guests (and to Leatha and "Bith" also), "The big gut has chased the little gut into a corner and is choking him."

When "Uncle Reuben" and Mrs. Elkin had departed, Ed got his paddling. And then at family prayers, his father prayed for him!

"Mary Powell's Red Velvet Blouse"

This is another story of family prayers and what preceded it.

Mary Powell (later Sales, then Million, then Powell again - three marriages) was visiting her cousin Mattie Griggs. (I'm not sure of the exact relationship, but Mary Frances Griggs' mother was a Powell.) They were about the same age, young, silly and probably boy-crazy.

There was a revival going on at the "Brick Church" and the evangelist was staying with the Jonas Griggs family, of course.

During some tense moment during the service, Mary Powell giggled, probably at something her beau had said. The evangelist, in reprimand, prayed in his prayers for "the young woman in the red velvet blouse". Jonas and Mary Frances weren't there that night but Mattie Griggs and Mary Powell knew that there would be family prayers with the evangelist present. So they dashed home and Mary changed into the most demure and colorless garment she had.

If the evangelist recognized her, he never admitted it or betrayed her.

"Get Me Some Cobs"

This story was told me recently (1969) by Mattie Grinstead (then 86 years of age). She said she remembered her grandmother Mary Frances Griggs in only one instance. Mary Frances was wearing a flat bonnet as "older" women (she died at the age of 54) wore in those days. Her grandmother asked Mattie to "Go tell your Uncle Charlie (the oldest son - Charles Lincoln Griggs) to bring me some cobs", (used to start fires in those days). Now Charles L. Griggs was at the barn across the road. (There was no fear to send a little three-year-old across the road in those days.)

But the only "Uncle Charlie" Mattie Grinstead knew was the negro man who helped her mother, some four miles away, so she started in that direction, walking in the road. But she came to a big lob-lolly of mud she couldn't cross so she crawled up on the fence and sat there. Shortly after, Uncle Ed Griggs came along on a horse, found her there and took her to the house. I don't know whether Grandmother Griggs ever got her cobs or not.

"A Hen And A Hi And A Ho!"

Wallace Owen was a very enterprising young man always. A Welsh family by the name of Griffith moved to College Hill. While the younger members of the family spoke English, the elders did not.

So Wallace, always wanting to learn, offered to teach Mrs. Griffith English if she would teach him Welsh. All went very well until Mrs. Griffith in spelling a word that began

N I O pronounced it "Hen and Hi and Ho". Wallace laughed, Mrs. Griffith was insulted and that ended the exchange of language lessons.

Another Story from Those Told by Wallace Owen

There had been a death in the Norris family. As was customary, the body was usually kept one night only, and someone "sat-up" with it. This was probably necessary since there were no screens and insects and animals could enter through the open windows. (It was from such "watches" or "wakes" that many ghost stories originated.)

Often young people volunteered their services and often these watches proved to be anything but gloomy affairs. On this night the parlor in which the body was adjoined the bedroom of old Mr. and Mrs. "Simp" Norris.

As quiet fell in the room where the young people sat, they heard old Mr. Norris say to his wife, "Wake up, Fuss and turn over and scratch my back."

Wallace could always get a good laugh when he told this story.

"Clemmie Webb's Telegram"

The rarity and excitement of receiving a telegram is illustrated in this story.

The Webb family received a telegram and Mrs. Webb (the age of Mary Frances and Jonas Griggs) in telling about it to her neighbors and friends said, "That telegram came and Jim he read it, and Tom he read it and Clemmie she read it, and we all read it and it said, "Come immediately, if not sooner."

Thus the saying in our family over the years, when we needed something done quickly, has been, "Do it immediately, if not sooner".

"Mrs. Grider's Prayer"

Rev. Fred Grider was pastor at College Hill more than one time. In fact, he owned his own home there.

It was customary at both Sunday Service and the Wednesday prayer meetings to ask and encourage the members of the congregation to lead in prayer.

Mrs. Grider always participated in these services and prayed earnestly for many people and many things, but she frequently had trouble bringing her prayers to an end. So she said, more than once, to her husband, "Wind up for me, Mr. Grider".

My Aunt, Mattie Griggs Hampton, often quoted that when she was trying to finish up some talk, some conversation over the telephone with a long-winded neighbor, some letter she was trying to write before the postman came, etc., "Wind up for me, Mr. Grider". And so I "wind up" the "Stories My Mother Told Me".

LAST WILL and TESTAMENT

The last will and testament of Jonas S. Griggs of College Hill, County of Madison, State of Kentucky.

I, Jonas S. Griggs, being of sound mind and disposing memory, knowing the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death do make this my last will and testament - hereby revoking all other wills made by me. 1st I will and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife Mary F. Griggs all my lands on the east and west side of the Big Hill road adjoining the town of College Hill. Also one third of the proceeds of the partnership lands owned by myself and Brother L. T. Griggs (that is one third of ~~any~~ part of said land). The partnership lands to be managed and disposed of as hereinafter directed; also two life Policies one in the Masonic Mutual located at Maysville, Kentucky and the other Mutual Mutual benefit association West Virginia Conference Methodist Episcopal Church South located at Ashland, Kentucky. Also all my personal property of every kind and description after my just debts and liabilities are paid out of said personality during her natural life and at her death [the]lands to be sold and conveyed by my executor using his best judgement as to time of sale for the best interest of my heirs and the money equally divided with my children. He may sell said lands in whole or in part as he thinks best.

2nd I will all the life policies I may hold to such of my children or relations as have kept up all expenses on same by agreement with me. My son Wm. T. Griggs having paid all dues and expenses on my Grange life insurance policy, I will to him the benefit of said policy absolutely.

3rd In the distribution of my estate my son Wm T. Griggs and my daughter Sarah B. Rucker be charged with two hundred and fifty dollars each, advanced to them by me during my life more than to my other children.

4th I hereby constitute and appoint my dear beloved brother L. T. Griggs my executor to carry this my will into effect and empower him to sell and convey any part or all of said partnership lands according to his best judgement of the time of said sale for the best interest of my heirs, one third of the proceeds of said land to be paid to my wife if she be living and the balance equally divided with my children, if she be dead the whole to be equally divided with my children, and I hereby direct and empower him to sell my part or all of my personality at private or public sale without any appraisement at any time he may deem best for the interest of my heirs and creditors and in the event he does not or can not carry out this will as Executor, I hereby appoint my son Wm T. Griggs in his stead to have all the power and authority given or conferred in this will and it is my request that my executor be allowed to enter on the discharge of his duties under this will without giving any security on his bond in the Madison County Court.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto fixed my name this 7th day of June A.D. 1886.

JONAS S. GRIGGS

Attest:

W. J. Webb

A. W. Williams

I, Jonas S. Griggs make this codicil to my last will and testament which will is dated June 7, 1886.

1. If my wife Mary F. Griggs should die before I do or before the 4th day of December 1892 when my youngest child Leatha May Griggs will arrive at the age of eighteen years then it is my will that my three youngest children viz: Mattie Griggs, Edwin Griggs and Leatha May Griggs have, use, and control and occupy the home place where I now live which is all the land I own except that which I own in partnership with my brother Lucian T. Griggs and that they also have all my household and kitchen furniture and farming utensils until my said daughter Leatha May Griggs arrives at eighteen years of age. Should either of said three youngest children die or marry before said 4 day of December 1892 when Leatha May Griggs will be eighteen years of age, then his or her interest in the land and personal property thus devised is to cease and the one or ones who do not marry before that time is to have the use and benefit of said farm and personal property until the time Leatha May Griggs will become eighteen years of age, if living. My object and intention being to provide my three children aforesaid with a home and means of support until the time my daughter Leatha May will be eighteen years of age provided she lives.

All the rest of my personal property devised to my wife in the event she dies before said 4 day of December 1892, my Executors is directed to sell at the death of my said wife if she lives longer than I do and if she does not then it is to be sold at my death and the proceeds are to be equally divided among all my children at the time Letha May will be eighteen years of age if she lives to wit on the 4 day of December 1892. My Executor is directed to sell the land and personal property given to my three youngest children for a home and also the household and kitchen furniture as well as the farming utensils and distribute the proceeds equally among all my children. I do not mean to say by this that he is to sell some on the day my said daughter arrives at eighteen years of age but I want him to exercise his own judgement and sell same as soon thereafter as it will be in his judgement prudent and to the interest of my estate to do so.

2. My children are Sarah B. Rucker wife of I. C. Rucker, W. T. Griggs, Lucy A. Owen wife of Clifton Owen, Mollie Elkin wife of James Elkin, Charles S. Griggs, Mattie Griggs, Edmond Griggs and Letha May Griggs.

3. It is my will that my executor hold that part of my estate devised to my daughter Lucy A. Owen until he sells my Home place as provided for in my will and codicil and pay her annually such interest as he can realize on same. After the home place is sold and reduced to cash, then it is my will that my said Executor invest whatever the said Lucy A. Owen receives from my estate including her interest in the proceeds of the Home place under the provisions of this will, in a piece of land to be selected by her to which he will take a deed to the said Lucy A. Owen during her life and at her death to go to her child or children and their descendants, in case such child or children are dead, equally, provided such child or children or their descendants if any live to be twenty-one years of age and if there are no child or children or the descendants who arrive at twenty-one years of age, then said land is to revert to my children and be divided among them and their descendants of such as may be dead equally, the descendants of a dead parent if their be such, in every instance to take what the parent would have been entitled to if living.

5. What I have given to my daughter Sarah B. Rucker and Mollie Elkin by this will and this codicil is for their sole and separate use free from from the contracts and control of their respective husbands with full power however to my said daughters to dispose of same by deed, gift or will as they choose.

6. I appoint my brother Lucian T. Griggs Executor, Guardian of my three youngest children Mattie Griggs, Edward Griggs and Letha May Griggs and direct him to take charge of their interest in my estate and manage same to their interest of said children as fully as I could do if living.

Witness my signature this 7 day of July 1886.

J. S. Griggs

Witness

A. W. Williams

Dr. J. Ayres -

Probated 6 December 1886