JOHN GRIGSBY
1752-1842

Compiled by Robert E. Grigsby from contributions by the descendants of John and Sara Grigsby.

In the past history of an ancestor there is much that will remain in the grey area of uncertainty. Usually there are some facts from which probable events can be reconstructed. So it is with John Grigsby who was born in Virginia in 1752, and whose box-vault grave stone in Limestone County, Alabama states that he died in 1842 - aged 90 years. Beside him is the vault of his wife, Sarah Watson Grigsby, whose grave stone is inscribed, "Our parents, SARAH, consort of John Grigsby, born in S.C. "Lawrence" district A.D. 1767, died 1855, Aged 88 years." Many years ago, Dr. E. P. Tompkins wrote of the legendary "Seven Hills of Rockbridge" (Virginia), and in his description of the small cemetery at Liberty Hill he commented on the word "consort". "While it has become in a sense archaic, (it) has a touch of quaintness and a sort of dignity which is pleasing in its sound. Its connotation is a companion, an intimate, a partner - one whose wish, and taste, and judgement is consulted in little things as well as great."

Following the Revolution, the new Congress arranged for a census of the United States. This first census was taken in 1790. On page 71 of the South Carolina record is the name of John "Grigsley" with a listing of wife and two children in the "Laurens" District. Church and gravestone records give the birth dates of these two children of John and Sarah Grigsby as: Margaret Grigsby, 1786 and James Grigsby, 1789. There are records of six additional children born in the Abbeville District of South Carolina between 1795 and 1811: John, Elizabeth, William, Caroline, Edward W. and Benjamin M. The 1800 and 1810 census lists John Grigsby in the Abbeville District, and the 1820 lists a family of eight including the parents. This agrees with family records which show that Margaret, the eldest daughter, had married (c. 1810) Thomas H. Henderson, who served in the War of 1812 as a Lieutenant and was mustered out in 1815 at the Edgefield County, S.C. courthouse. Thomas and Margaret had established their own household. James, the eldest son, in 1820 was in Limestone County, Alabama. This was the final listing of the family in South Carolina census records.

As early as 1730 in South Carolina, a "trading Post 96" supplied travelers on their way to and from Indian villages. In 1769, Ninety-Six became a courthouse town for all the northwest part of S.C. which included 14 or so of the state's present counties. In November, 1775, Tories and Patriots fought the first S.C. land battle of the Revolution on the outskirts of Ninety-Six. The British considered it a key point and constructed a fort (restored, and a current tourist attraction). Following the end of hostilities in 1785, the South Carolina general assembly created six districts within Ninety-Six: Abbeville, Edgefield, Laurens, Newberry, Spartanburg and Union. Courthouse deeds and records remained in the Ninety-Six courthouse until the early 1800's when they were removed to new courthouses in Abbeville and Edgefield. In 1872, two successvie fires at Abbeville CH destroyed papers, deeds, plats and court journals - losses that pose many unanswerable questions on the residency of John Grigsby and his family in the Laurens and Abbeville areas.

In what year John Grigsby first came to '96' is not known, nor do surviving records account for Sarah Watson among the several Watson families of the area, but it can be reasoned that they were married c. 1785 - the year before their first child, Margaret (1786), was born. Sarah Watson was then 19 and John had reached his 33rd year. By 1790 South Carolina's '96 districts' had become the home of a number of Virginia Grigsby families, several of whom are listed by John Bennett Boddie in his Virginia Historical Genealogies. Other listings are carried on the 1790 census records.

In those early days when states were being formed, it was the custom to hold land sales in order to encourage immigration and gain the necessary qualifying minimum "population". So it was in the Alabama territory in 1818 when potential buyers and settlers from the surrounding states of Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas came to take advantage of virgin land at low cost. Records in the Limestone County courthouse (Alabama) show that James Grigsby and Thomas Henderson began to buy land tracts as early as February, 1818. When Alabama became a state in December of 1819, several large tracts had been acquired and preparations were underway to house the rest of the family soon to move from South Carolina.

According to the 1894 Limestone County, Alabama historian, Lemuel Hyde, whose signature "Over 60" implied a knowledge of his sketches of the old settlers, "John Grigsby Sr., was a native of Virginia but came to this country from South Carolina with his family about the year 1821 and settled on the lower Elkton Road, seven and a half miles (north) from Athens (the county seat). Mr. Grigsby's family consisted of his wife, five sons and three daughters..." James, the eldest son, followed the tradition of other Virginia Grigsby families and continued to manage the family affairs in Alabama until 1830.

By that year, Margaret and Thomas H. Henderson had settled in the nearby growing community of Elkmont. Caroline had married Arthur R. Garrison on February 8, 1827 and was soon to settle on farms acquired in Giles County, Tennessee - some 12 miles north. Elizabeth Grigsby had married Samuel Hamblin of Hawkins Co., Tennessee in 1827, but died the following year after the birth of their daughter, Sarah Hamblin. It is recorded that infant Sarah was raised by the grandparents Grigsby, and that Samuel Hamblin later resettled in Mississippi. Sarah grew to young womanhood and on October 16, 1845 at age 17, became the bride of Robert Lama Bridgeforth. John, William, Edward W. and Benjamin M., brothers of James, continued to live with the parents in the home which had been provided for them. It was in this year (1830) that James announced his intentions to marry and establish a home of his own.

In February, 1830 - just 12 years from the date of the first land purchases in Limestone Co., Alabama - Articles of Agreement were drawn and executed whereby the family holdings, still in the name of James Grigsby, were divided among the parents, brothers, sisters and heirs. This interesting document, on file in the Athens courthouse, states in part: "Whereas, by the industry and exertion of the said James, united with those of his brothers, he has been able to make and secure a considerable estate in land, negroes, and other valuable property the title to all of which and the entire control of the same has been and continued in him, and whereas the said James had continued to keep his said father and mother with him together with all the parties of the second part except his two sisters Margaret and Caroline, now

anticipates a separation from them, wishes to make such distribution of the said property..."

James and Margaret Martindale were married that very year. Margaret Martindale was 18 while James at 40 was, according to one account, of the same age as his father-in-law. James and Margaret built their home, impressive for those early Limestone County days, on a hill overlooking a stream near a growing community known as New Garden (of Eden). Here was located a Presbyterian Church which has been the source of many early genealogical records of the area. Five children were born to them: Sarah, known as Tiara; Thomas, John Pitt, William and Margaret. Following the birth of Margaret, the mother (Margaret Martindale Grigsby) died. During that same month, September, 1840, two of the sons, Thomas and William also died. James died nine years later, just short of his 60th year. Their home at New Garden survived for 150 years, when it was destroyed by fire in 1982. The bricks from which it was constructed were hand made on the place, and during the period James and Margaret lived in it there were separate kitchens, housing quarters for the workers, stables, barns and a cotton ginhouse. It has been described as a self-sufficient plantation.

Margaret, the infant daughter, was raised by the grandparents Martindale, and in due time became the wife of Dr. J. G. Mason of Prospect, Tennessee in Giles County. Sarah (Tiara) married Calvin Redus and moved to Pala Pinto, Texas where descendants still reside. John Pitt Grigsby, the surviving son, married Octavia Clay Redus and settled near Bethel, Tennessee on the Alabama-Tennessee border. (It is said the 'state line' ran through the house - which still stands.) It was here that William H. Grigsby, author of the 1878 Genealogy of the Grigsby Family, visited in 1872. Of this visit he wrote that John Pitt Grigsby (like his father) "is a man of great physical power, and on my visit enthusiastically read to me from Bryant's Homer".

Following the marriage of James and Margaret in 1830, his brothers John, William, and Benjamin M. continued to maintain the "home place". It was described as a large log structure, but no longer stands. The site is well known and is within 200 yards of the small cemetery. The brothers never married. In 1861, Benjamin was the first to die - it is said, by his own hand, having become despondent over the approaching war between the States. From Giles County, Tennessee records it appears that Benjamin assumed the role of "family purchasing agent". Beginning in the 1840's there are numerous records of land, slaves and other goods being bought in his name over a ten year period. The land purchases involved about 2,000 acres in various farms along the Elk river and in other areas of that County. The last of the "bachelor brothers" to die was John in 1869. All were buried beside their parents in the small cemetery which is now within a cultivated field of the same prime, red, cotton-growing soil, that represented the home of John and Sarah Grigsby. The "home farm" is still owned by descendants.

Three years after the 1830 division of property, the remaining brother, Edward Watson Grigsby, married Permelia Berry Adams. Her father, Littleberry Adams, had come from S.C. to settle in the Alabama territory around 1808 and had developed a prosperous business, mill, and store by bringing in trade goods by wagon from as far away as the Cumberland River near Nashville. The home that they established was built on a hillside overlooking the Elk River, near an area known as Lebanon, several miles west of the "home farm". Here, fourteen children were born to them - 11 girls and 3 boys. One son, Benjamin Adams Grigsby, died in his 18th year. The second son,

John Calhoun Grigsby, served in the Confederate Army in 1865, and remained a bachelor and helpful brother to his sisters until his death in 1933 at 89. The third son, Edward N. married Frances (Fanny) Whitman (born in Lincoln County, Tennessee), and lived in Elkton, Tennessee where he died at 95.

Edward W. and Permelia lived in Limestone County, Alabama until 1868 when they moved to one of the Giles County farms near Elkton, Tennessee which Edward W. had acquired from the purchases made by Benjamin some years earlier. Six of their children were married from this Giles County residence and newspaper accounts at that time attest to a generous hospitality. Their daughter, Carolina, had married Nathan Copeland; Sarah Ann (Sallie) had married William Aaron Baugh; and Mahala Elizabeth had married Archie Pleasant Griffis. (Upon Mahala's death Archie married her sister Nancy.)

In the 1878 William H. Grigsby Genealogy, further reference is made to these children of Edward W.: Jennie (Virginia) married James Whitman; Lucy married John L. Baugh; and Ida married John R. Beasley. All continued to live in Giles County well into their 80th and 90th years of age. Among the papers of Ida Grigsby Beasley, who died in Birmingham, Alabama in 1943, was a page from the original copy of the 1878 Genealogy with the underscored members of her family noted and marked. Although widely scattered, many of the descendants of John and Sarah Watson are aware of their heritage.

NEW GARDEN CEMETERY
Section 4, Township 2, Range 4 West

SACRED
To the memory
of
JAMES GRIGSBY
Who departed this Life
August 31, 1849 Aged
59 years 8 months
& 11 days

HAMLIN CEMETERY
Located near south half of section line between Sections 27 & 28, Township 1, Range 4 West and about ½ mile north of New Garden Cemetery.

SACRED
To the memory
of
My Mother
ELIZABETH HAMLIN
Born Feb. 13, 1803 and departed
This Life _____ 1828 (Stone broken)

GRIGSBY CEMETERY
Located on the Grigsby-Williams farm Limestone Co., Alabama in SE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 7, Township 2, Range 4 West.

Our parents
SARA consort of
JOHN GRIGSBY
born in S.C. Lawrence District
?(Laurens)?
A.D. 1767 died 1855 aged
88 years

Our parents
JOHN GRIGSBY
born in Va. Rockbridge Co.
A.D. 1752 died 1842 aged
90 years

SACRED
To the memory
of
JOHN GRIGSBY
born in Abbeville district
S.C. Oct. 17, 1793 and
departed this life Feb. 15,
1862 Aged 68 years 3
months and 26 days

SACRED
To the memory
of
WILLIAM GRIGSBY
who was born Feb. 13
1805 and departed this
life Sept. the 11 1868
aged 63 years 7 months
and 27 days
(Note: There was an obvious
error in the dates and the age)

BENJAMIN N. GRIGSBY
was born in Abbeville District
S.C. April 2, 1811 and departed
this life July 27, 1861 aged
50 years 3 months & 25 days

I, Christine W. Edwards, visited the New Garden Cemetery and the Grigsby Cemetery on April 20, 1977 and the Hamlin Cemetery in the summer of 1973 and the above listed tombstones, with the exact inscriptions as noted, were found.

(signed) Christine W. Edwards

(signed) Marilyn W. Lewis - Notary Public
4/21/77

SOLDIER JOHN'S KIN PICKED BUCK ISLAND

Pioneer Family Is a Legend in Limestone[1]

by John Knox

From Rapid Ann River, and "Fruit Hill" farm, in Rockbridge County, Va., to Limestone County, Ala., was a long trek for a man of 70, back in 1818. Routes were only Indian-haunted rivers and wilderness trails. But John Grigsby, the son of "Soldier John", made it somehow, and lived for another 20 years in the big log mansion on Witty Mill Creek, north of Athens. We know this because his vault grave is still there in the middle of a cotton field, along with that of his wife, Sarah, and three of his sons.

This first Grigsby settlement in Alabama has been previously mentioned and a sketchy account given of most of the children of John Grigsby II. Son James, who became the head of the family, built the famous "Bridgeforth house" at New Garden. Daughters married Hendersons and Garrisons. Sons William, John III, and Benjamin, referred to in family records as "old bachelors", remained at home and are buried beside their parents. But what became of the other son -- Edward Watson Grigsby? He seems to have been overlooked by writers who centered their attention on the branch of the clan which remained in the Elkmont-New Garden area (of Alabama).

In Capt. McClellan's short Limestone history, there is a brief mention that "Col. Ned" Grigsby moved to Elkton, Tenn., and was living then (1881) "at a beautiful country seat, dispensing a generous hospitality, enjoying the confidence of his friends, and spending his declining years in comfortable retirement."

But McClellan has left out a great deal, as we later learned. Col. Ned (Edward Watson) Grigsby died in the same year in which McClellan's sketches were published in the old Athens Post. But recently we talked to Mrs. Elizabeth (Baugh) Glaze, of Decatur, the colonel's great-granddaughter, and we visited the site of the large plantation at Buck Island, (Alabama) which he owned and operated for many years before he moved to Tennessee.

Body Brought Home

Though he died in the later state, his body was brought back for burial to the old home cemetery (in Alabama). A letter to Mrs. Glaze from one of her aunts, tells of the great-grandfather's death. "I remember very well when Grandpa died," wrote this relative. "I was about four, I guess, and it was Christmas time, and Papa and Uncle John left with the remains to go all the way to bury him . . ."

We first learned of the site of this old Grigsby plantation from Ronald Cole of Hartselle, who grew up in that region and knows it well. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Glaze told us of her relationship, and the pattern of the story began to emerge. We still don't know why McClellan failed to mention this "lost page" in the Grigsby

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1. Reprinted from The Decatur Daily, March 3, 1965.

annals. The location is not many miles from the Elkmont region, and the farm was neither a short-term nor a small-scale operation.

On the contrary, the Buck Island establishment must have been impressive indeed. Even on a still-cold morning, the landscape is magnificent; the hilltop site, where a modern home now stands, suggests the castle site of a feudal baron. Wooded summits and rolling slopes command a vista of the Elk River basin. Slave cabins stood riverward from the house; orchards and gardens and cedar groves stretched up toward the cemetery on the hillside, where Grigsbys and their kin -- Baughs, Griffis, Copelands, Beasleys, Murrahs and others are buried.

Across the winding road a clear stream flows through a fairytale landscape toward the river, its course broken here and there by the crystal and silver curtains of small waterfalls. Still farther, the road comes to a dead-end where the Elk flows past what was once known as "Grigsby's Landing."

Mass of Documents

It is plain enough now -- with a mass of documents, letters, clippings and family records to support the story -- that at the time when the estate was divided and brother James Grigsby left the old home on Witty Creek to build his brick mansion at New Garden, Edward W., another son who did not remain at home, moved westward and chose this beautiful site at Buck Island for his home.

A family record says that Edward Grigsby and his wife, Parmelia, "spent 36 years of their early life at Lebanon, Ala." (Lebanon church is about one mile south of the Buck Island bridge). Since it was not until 1868 that they moved to Elkton, Tenn., they must have settled on the river plantation about 1832 which would have been about the time James Grigsby built the house previously mentioned.

That date, 1868, shortly after the Civil War's close also suggests that the ruinous aftermath of the conflict may have had something to do with the move to Elkton.

Parmelia Adams, Edward's wife, was a native of North Alabama, and was one of the first white children born in this region. She was the daughter of Littleberry Adams (sometimes referred to simply as "Berry"), and we are able to add to the family records the fact that he was one of the earliest of Limestone settlers. He was one of a group that established itself at Wooley's Springs in 1808, and he later owned a mill there. His sister married Flooda Mitchell Sr., who was also in this group of South Carolina pioneers.

The Grigsbys have, through the years, been allied by marriage to many notable families, ranging all the way from relatives of Henry Clay and Gov. Shelby of Tennessee, to Cyrus McCormick inventor of the reaper (also born in Rockbridge County, Va.) and Gen. Paxton, who was Stonewall Jacksons's adjutant, and Col. Grigsby, who served under him.

Revival Meeting

Other kin were distinguished editors, educators, writers, historians and ministers. Not the least interesting of these latter was a Rev. Grigsby of East

Tennessee who saved a revival meeting when, seeing that dust from the dirt floor was hampering the spirtual progress of repentant sinners, mounted the pulpit and shouted:

"More straw, oh Brethren! Immortal souls are being lost for want of straw."

"Soldier John," father of the first Grigsby in Alabama, won his "nom de guerre" while serving in the company of Augustine Washington at the seige of Carthagena, S.C. John II, the Alabama emigrant, was the former's son by his first wife, an Aitchenson, of Scotch extraction.

A genealogy compiled by William H. Grigsby, in 1878 and republished by R.H. McCormick, of Chicago, in 1905, traces the Grigsby line to Ango-Saxon progenitors. "Goldsmith mentioned their great numbers in England," he says, "in his drama: 'She Stoops to Conquer' " (1773). And in 1794, it is noted, Josiah Grigsby, a member of the House of Commons, seconded the motion of Earl Grey (later prime minister of England) for reforms in the representation of Parliament.

Took Refuge

The ancestors of the American Grigsbys had already come to Virginia by this time. Of Puritan extraction, they had left the homeland after the restoration of Charles II, and taken refuge in Safford County, in the Old Dominion.

That Grigsby was a prolific clan is shown by an old photograph owned by Mrs. Glaze. It shows a gathering of the Elkton, Tenn. home, in 1914, with more than 60 kinsfolk gathered about the elders.

Edward and Permelia Grigsby had 14 children. Of these, the second daughter, Sally Ann, married William Aaron (Buck) Baugh, who was the grandfather of Mrs. Glaze, Dr. W. P. Baugh and W. H. Baugh of Decatur. Robert Grigsby of Elkton is descended from Edward N. Grigsby, "Col. Ned's" 10th child. Other Grigsby daughters married Nathan Copeland, Pleasant Griffis, Frank Griffis, James Whitman, John Baugh and John Beasley. Some of these are buried in the Buck Island Cemetery.

Edward Watson Grigsby died in 1881, his wife Permelia, in 1898. Long obituaries in Tennessee newspapers attest to the affection and esteem in which these Alabama pioneers were held by friends and neighbors.

WILL OF EDWARD WATSON GRIGSBY

Will Book B, page 389-390, office of the County Clerk of Giles Co., Tennessee. Edward Watson Grigsby died in Elkton, Giles Co., Tennessee December 28, 1881. The January term of the Giles County Court, 1882, records the following will:

I, E. W. Grigsby of the County of Giles, State of Tennessee, make this my last will. I give, devise and bequeath my estate and property, real and personal, as follows:

Item 1: I direct that all my debts be paid as soon as possible out of the surplus money made on my farm near Elkton, Tenn and my farm in Limestone County, Ala and any other funds that may come into the hands of my Executors.

Item 1: I give to my wife, Permelia B. Grigsby, the home place of 940 acres situated on Elk River near Elkton, Tenn. with all stock, vehicles, farming implements household and kitchen furniture and etc and valued at $20,000 to be hers during her natural life and at her death to be equally divided between Virginia P. Grigsby and Ida G. Beasley.

Item 3: I give and bequeath to my son E. N. Grigsby a tract of land containing 60 acres and known as the "Austin Baugh" place at a value of $1,200.

Item 4: I give and bequeath to my daughter Lucy Baugh a tract of land containing 160 acres and known as the Terrell place, which is situated on the waters of Richland creek and on the east side of the Nashville and Decatur division of the L. & N. & GS reilroad at a value of $2,500.

Item 5: I give and bequeath to Frank Griffis the sum of $500.

Item 6: I will to Edward Nave a horse, saddle and bridle to be given him by my Executors when he becomes large enough to ride.

Item 7: I insist upon an equal distribution of my estate among the lawful heirs and in order that this may be done the following facts must be considered. I have heretofore paid and advanced to the following names, which amounts without interest are to be charged against them in the settlement of my estate to wit:

C. C. Copeland	$5,800	Sallie Baugh	$7,580
Heirs of Mahaly Griffis	6,200	Lucy Baugh	5,790
Nannie Griffis	4,200	E. N. Grigsby	8,300
John C. Grigsby	7,375		

Item 8: I direct that my farm situated on the Elk River, Limestone County, Ala be run by my Executors hereinafter to be named until all debts against my estate are paid. I desire said farm kept in the family if proper arrangements can be made. If it does not suit any of the heirs to purchase said farm from my Executors, then let it be sold with all stock, implements and attachments and proceeds divided between the heirs.

Item 9: I direct that the following Railroad stock be sold by my Executors when they think it can be done to advantage to wit, $6,000 of Nashville and Decatur R R stock; $500 of Memphis and Charleston R.R. stock; 1/4 interest in $1,500 of Memphis and Charleston R. R. stock.

Item 10: I leave the following named notes in the hands of my Executors to wit, 1 note against W. A. Baugh of $1,600; 1 note against W. A. Baugh of $1,660; 1 note against Jno S. Baugh of $150.00. No interest to be charged on the above notes. 1 note against A. R. Garrison for $213.00.

Item 11: I leave in the hands of my Executors an interest in a tract of land in Lawrence County, Tenn.

Item 12: I will and direct that the sum of $100 per annum be paid to the Stewards of the Methodist Episcopal Church South at Elkton, Tenn for the support of the ministry at said place. This annuity is to be continued during the lifetime of my wife, Permelia.

Item 13: I appoint John C. and E. N. Grigsby of the County of Giles, State of Tennessee and J. R. Beasley of the County of Limestone, State of Alabama as Executors of this my last will, security not required.

In witness whereof I have signed and sealed and published and declared this instrument as my will at Elkton, Tenn on this 24 day of June, 1880

s/ E. W. Grigsby

(From the Pulaski Citizen of December, 1881, concerning the death of Col. Edward Watson Grigsby who was born in South Carolina February 8, 1808, and died in Elkton, Tennessee on December 28, 1881. Article courtesy of Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking, a great granddaughter of Col. Grigsby.)

Death of a Respected Citizen

Col. E. W. Grigsby, one of the most substantial citizens of Giles county, died at his residence near Elkton, Wednesday night at 9 o-clock, of an infection of the kidneys. He had been ill for some time and his death was not unexpected. The remains will be interred this evening at the farm of the deceased in Limestone county, Ala., on the river. Col. Grigsby leaves a connection which includes several of the most esteemed families in their respective communities. He was one of the most influential citizens, not only of his neighborhood, but of the county and the force of his person were known. A life of such devoted energy and consistent principles as his must command respect and should arouse a spirit of emulation; and while Col. Grigsby is followed to the grave by the former, it is not too much to hope that his life may have its effect in the latter.

Col. E. W. Grigsby

E. W. Grigsby was born in South Carolina, Feb. 8, 1808. In early years he came to Limestone county, Ala., where he spent the most of his life. For the past twenty years he has lived near Elkton, Tenn., where on the 28th of December, 1881, he "fell on sleep and was laid unto his fathers", having served God with fidelity, and discharged his part to his fellow man with integrity and a good conscience.

The morning of his life was attended with labor and privation; the noon with success and plenty; the evening with a continuation of God's blessings, and a correct idea of how to use ahd dispose of the same. Of the merits of the man, his incomparable kindness and liberality, it would be impossible to speak with too much reverence. He was a man of intense individuality and marvelous sympathetic powers, and he can in no wise be charged with insincerity, craftiness; dishonesty, guile, man-pleasing and flattery. Being possessed of that charity which "envieth not", he never viewed with secret uneasiness the merit of others as they arose into notice, nor heard their praise with an unwilling ear. He was a hero of unselfishness. Modest in his own esteem he so deported himself as to acquire the esteem of others. In his love and friendship he was "consistently consistent". He strove for peace and unity, and endeavored to meet all men half-way.

I was united in heart and soul with Col. Grigsby, and of my friends and companions, I found no one more genuine, more unselfish, more sincerely devoted to the furtherance of the cause of Christ. He has stamped upon the little Church at Elkton the impress of liberality. In his last will his church was not forgotten. It was from no personal feeling of emulation, a feeling of which his soul was profoundly incapable, but from his love for this little vine which he had watered with his tears, and for the life and growth of which he had so often prayed.

With heroic cheerfulness he solaced the months of failing strength with Christian patience. Even amidst the ruins of his wasted constitution, he endeavored to "gather up the sunshine".

His children will remember his parental instructions with mournful delight, and it is hoped will imitate his virtues. His wife, who walked by his side for nearly fifty years, will sadly miss him.

His brethren in the Church, while they view his vacant seat, will remember the fervency of his devotion, and strive to supply his lack of service in the sanctuary of the Lord.

W. Weakley

(From the Pulaski Citizen, Pulaski, Tennessee, October, 1898, an editorial on the death of Permelia Littleberry Adams Grigsby, born March 12, 1812, died October, 1898 at Elkton, Tennessee. Article courtesy of Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking.)

A Good Woman Gone

Permelia Grigsby Passes Away in Her 84th year

On Sunday evening, October 4, at 4 P.M., when the sun was fast setting in the west our little village was veiled in darkness and sad was the echo in our ears to catch the sweet songs of the waiting angels who were singing a responsive chorus, announcing that she was drawing near the eternal shore. Her earthly trial was over, and she, in the arms of her shining escort, was knocking at the door of her father's house, to join those who had gone on before.

Mrs. Permelia Grigsby (nee Miss Adams) was born in Madison County, Alabama, March 12, 1812, and died at Elkton, Tennessee October 4, 1896. At the age of 20, in the prime of womanhood, she was happily married to Edward W. Grigsby in the year 1831. They spent 36 years of their early life at Lebanon, Alabama, and moved to Elkton, Tennessee, in the year 1868. She made a profession of religion in middle life, and connected herself with the Methodist Church at Elkton, in which she was consistent, happy and useful member the remainder of the life. She was a devoted Christian woman, true to God and His cause -- a kind, generous and accommodating neighbor, a fond and faithful wife, and mother. No act of hers ever went to record but what her closest friends could say truth and honor dictated it. What she had was at the command of her friends, and charity was never asked in alms but what she gave double. Husband and chidren, devoted and loving were in turn adored and loved with a deathless affection. The pictures of the home circle will never fade from the memory of any member of that circle. It will live on through the role of years as beautiful a picture as earth can hold.

For several years her health had slowly been giving away under the steady approach of age. Her last illness at times was quite pathetic, but she bore her suffering with much patience, great fortitude and complete resignation to the will of her heavenly father. She died in peace though she spoke no last words; still we knew that her death bed scene was as beautiful as her life. A few days before her death

she saw in her vision her mother's face, and heard the words calling her home. She answered, "I am ready", and with the manifestation of unwavering faith in God, she was willing to follow Him in the light and trust in Him when all the stars seemed blotted from the night.

She was the mother of 14 children, 11 daughters and 3 sons, all of whom lived to love her. In the midst of her loved ones whose tender ministries she loved to dwell on, the sentence came. A soft expression akin to a smile was on her face, afor the victory was hers. While kindred voices whispered, "Mother has gone", she bade earthly scenes farewell and hailed the deepening splendors of the eternal.

The funeral services were conducted at the home by the Reverend R. P. Ransom to a large congregation of sorrowing relatives and loving friends. Her remains were laid away to sleep by the side of her husband in Grigsby Cemetery until the resurrection morning.

She leaves 8 children, 26 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren to mourn her death. Of course, our hearts are sad to know that we shall see her face no more on earth, yet some sweet day we shall meet father, mother and brother and sister beyond the sunset where sin, sorrow and death can not come. To friends and loved ones I say, "Grieve not, for our sadness is her eternal joy. And if we only prove faithful, soon there will be a happy reunion on the peaceful shores of everlasting bliss, and our grief is only tempered with the thought that her generous spirit is basking in the light of God's love. There will be reunion in the skies."

There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are felt more than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly Thanksgiving.

For the love of God is brighter
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

--- A Friend

Sons and daughters of Edward Watson Grigsby (1808–1881) Photograph taken at the home of Mrs. John Beasley (Ida Grigsby Beasley), Elkton, Tennessee, in 1915.

(Top, left to right) John C. Grigsby, Lucy Grigsby Baugh, Edward N. Grigsby, Ida Grigsby Beasley (Bottom, left to right) Virginia Grigsby Whitman, Unknown, Sally Grigsby Baugh. (Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking)

(This clipping from the Birmingham News of 1924 was sent by Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking. It concerns Sally A. Grigsby (Mrs. William Aaron Baugh) who was the second daughter of Edward W. Grigsby.)

Birmingham Woman Reaches 89th Birthday, Well and Happy, with Ambition to be 100

On Thursday, the first day of May, 1924, "May Day," of which Tennyson sang so beautifully --

"For I shall be queen o' the May.
Mother,
"I shall be queen o' May --

a very lovely lady of the old school celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday anniversary.

The lovely lady was Mrs. William Aaron Baugh, with a silver crown of snowy hair and merry blue eyes, keen wit and engaging personality, and she celebrated her eighty-ninth birthday surrounded by many who love her; her son, Robert H. Baugh, and his little family; four bachelors, for whom she makes such a comfortable home, John W. Wade, Lee Bivings, Frank S. Foster and Clayton Rice, while Miss Jane Holbrow, attractive young Englishwoman who is her companion and friend, completes the little coterie which forms the family circle of Mrs. Baugh's home.

With birthday cakes and flowers and candy and all sorts of lovely remembrances from countless relatives and friends, Mrs. Baugh was a veritable "Queen o' the May" on the occasion, and right regally did she wear the honors, for hers is a right regal personality, gentle and kindly, yet withal strong and forceful.

Seated in her big chair, to which she has been confined more or less for the past three years, since she sustained a fall which crippled her to some extent, Mrs. Baugh talked very interestingly of her life and the many wonderful things that have happened to her.

Born in Alabama, just seven miles from Athens, Sallie N. Grigsby became the bride of William Aaron Baugh when she was scarcely out of her teens.

Girls married younger in those days, it seems, than they do nowadays; and as a bride this young woman lived in Elkton, Tenn., through the stormy days of the Confederacy, when Yankee soldiers patroled the roads and burned houses and played the mischief generally, and right well does she recall many alarming incidents which happened "right under her nose" during those perilous times, when "80-cent cotton" vied wtih other remarkable situations, and the old-fahsioned darkey loved his "master" like he loved himself.

Children and Grandchildren

Mrs. Baugh's home was happily blessed by four children, two of whom are now living, Robert H. Baugh, and Dr. John Edward Baugh, of Elkton.

The late Mrs. J. W. Blarclay, one of the handsomest women in Birmingham society and greatly beloved, was Mrs. Baugh's daughter and another daughter, Mary Elizabeth Baugh, died in infancy.

"I have ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren," Mrs. Baugh said proudly, and then she bagan to talk about Robert H. Baugh, Jr., her grandson, whom she proudly tells you is one of the finest golf players in the South today.

"Why, he went to Atlanta," said Mrs. Baugh," and was toasted and feted and made much over because of his prowess as a golf player. He promises to be even better then his father -- and that you know is a great compliment."

How sweet she was -- and how tender -- as she spoke of her son and his son -- and others of her family whom she loves and leans on, although the "clinging vine" type is not at all what this venerable lady is, even in her old age; on the other hand, in full possession of all her faculties, except for her lameness from the fall, she is the most energetic and active of older women.

For she is not an old woman -- never that -- but "a young old woman" -- as Mrs. Baugh describes herself, and what do you think? She wants to live to be a hundred. "...11 more years, you know," she said gaily. I am going to have the biggest party and the nicest time that anybody ever had. I'm going to have all my family and friends and neighbors and celebrate the hundredth milestone in fitting style."

And then she wanted me to see her brand new frock -- all flowered and lovely and dainty shades of purple and blue -- and so attractively made -- in the latest "mode" -- long waist and straight skirt -- and when Miss Holbrow teased her about it being "too young" for her, the lovely "young old lady" said:

"Indeed it isn't. I like gay colors and pretty things and I always mean to have them."

One thing that helps to keep Mrs. Baugh young is the affection of her family and household which is fairly lavished on her. Her son takes lunch with her every day, except on Wednesdays, when he attends the Rotary Club luncheons; he brings to her a bit of the outside world of pleasure and business, and keeps her closely in touch with life, while the group of bachelors pay homage to her as though she were a real queen.

The stock market is never so uncertain that Mr. Wade can't tell the lovely lady about cotton. Mr. Foster keeps her posted on banking matters, while Mr. Bivings, with his whole souled jolly good nature, adds his bit with Mr. Rice to the entertainment of this beloved woman who makes their home life so delightful.

Old Fashioned Flirtations

Reverting to her girlhood days, Mrs. Baugh told me that she had always belonged to the Methodist Church -- as did all her people -- and added:

"But we often went to the Baptist Church, for the Methodist Church was just a mile away from our home and the Baptist four miles -- and we girls used to go to church on horseback -- and we stood a better chance of getting a beau on the four-mile ride than on the shorter one -- so we frequently went to the Baptist Church.

I could picture this lovely lady -- as a young girl -- in snowy white muslins frilled and furbelowed, with gay blue ribbons matching her pretty eyes, and her slender dainty figure -- so neat and trim, and all the boys "running after" her -- Oh, dear, how interesting it must have been.

"I had lots of beaux," Mrs. Baugh said proudly. "I remember I had two beaux who were 'courting' me at the same time Mr. Baugh courted me. One was from Mississippi and another from Alabama."

"And you flirted outrageously -- didn't you?" I teased.

"Well -- it was hard to resist a fliration, but always my heart was in the same place -- and I never had any idea of marrying anybody but Mr. Baugh," she said whimsically.

And then she told me about the "quilting parties" she used to attend when she was a girl, the quilts all colorful and beautiful in the quilting frames, and how the girls indulged in a very amusing game, a sort of "Aunt Dinah's quilting party."

A cat was brought into the room where the quilting party was going on and turned loose and the first quilt that the feline jumped into was a signal that the young lady to whom it belonged would be the first to be married.

"Such fun as we had," exclaimed Mrs. Baugh, "and how eagerly we awaited the pranks of the cat. It was all so simple and sweet. Every girl in my day quilted to her heart's content -- and when I was married I had seven beautiful quilts that I had made myself."

Asked her opinion of modern styles and customs, Mrs. Baugh expressed herself in no uncertain terms as she said:

"I don't like bobbed hair: I think it is too common; everybody has it nowadays -- and it isn't pretty. And as for short skirts -- well -- it seems to me that the taller a girl if the longer her skirts ought to be, but many of them think otherwise."

Asked for her recipe for "How to be Young at Eighty-Nine," Mrs. Baugh said?

"Lots of good friends, lots of good company; busy hands, busy mind and busy heart."

Could anything be sweeter?

Truly not -- and to the lovely lady whose recipe we would follow we wish many more happy birthdays -- surrounded by a loving family and many friends -- and when the century milestone has been reached and the slender hands are still busy, and the tender heart is yet young, and the sweet blue eyes scan the horizon in retrospect,

may there not be one single blur or blemish in all that long century of time -- which can mar the happiness of her one hundredth birthday.

From the Pulaski Citizen, 1931, of Pulaski, Tennessee:

Mrs. "Buck" Baugh

Mrs. Baugh, widow of "Buck" Baugh a long time honored citizen of Elkton, mother of Dr. John E. Baugh, and R. H. Baugh, of Birmingham, died at the doctor's home at Elkton Sunday last, approaching the 96th anniversary of her birth. Following funeral services by the Methodist pastor Rev. R. M. Chenault, the remains of this beloved and valuable pioneer mother were interred in Elkton cemetery.

Built in 1879, the farm home of Lucy Grigsby Baugh, grandmother of Fay Baugh Reinking. The farm is located near Pulaski, Tennessee.

Four Generations: Lucy Grigsby Baugh, Berry Bough (son), Fay Baugh Reinking (granddaughter), Lucy Fay Reinking (Mrs. Wm. N. Carl, Jr., great granddaughter).

Taken at Lucy Grigsby Baugh's farm near Pulaski, Tennessee in April, 1941.

GRIGSBY FAMILY REUNION

(Held at the home of Mrs. Ida Grigsby Beasley in Elkton, Tennessee, and reported in the Pulaski Citizen, circa 1925. Article courtesy of Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking.)

Family Reunion

A family reunion of the Grigsby relations was held the 27th at Mrs. Ida Beasley's beautiful country home. Between 85 and 100 were present. Some from a distance were, Misses Nannie and Mae Murrel of Memphis, Mrs. Lucy Baugh, Aspen Hill; Atha Baugh and family, Pulaski; Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Beaseley, Wheelerton; Mrs. Carey Thompson and children, Birmingham, Mrs. Sallie Baugh, Birmingham; Mrs. Fuller Britain and son, Nashville; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mason and children, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mason and children, Mrs. Maggie Mason, Mrs. Myrtle Mason Abernathy, Miss Elizabeth Abernathy, Prospect; Miss Holman, Nashville; Robert Lee Griffis, Athens; and Miss Chita Beasley's house-party.

A Barbecue feast was spread under the beautiful forest trees. The guests were entertained with music by Miss Mary Baugh and fancy dancing by Miss Matsie Warden of Athens, also reading by Miss Chita Beasley. Many interesting group pictures were taken.

It is to be hoped all of this prominent family may have the opportunity of again meeting together in another such a reunion.

The Grigsby Barbecue

The reunion of the Grigsby family held at the home of Mrs. Ida G. Beasley, Tuesday July 27th was an event of more than passing interest as there were gathered together over a hundred of the most prominent and influential people in the county. An excellent barbecue had been prepared and the crowd was treated to a program of genuine entertainment. Miss Matsie Warten, of Athens gave several beautiful dances, and Miss Chita Beasley's readings and the violin selections by Miss Mary Baugh were heartily applauded. There was not one thing but what tended to make the day one of the happiest in the lives of those present. By families those present were: E. N. Grigsby, J. W. Whitman, Emmet Hill, Jno. G. Beasley, Sam and Will Garrison, Mrs. Nan Griffis, Mrs. Myrtle Abernathy, A. T. Baugh, Dr. J. E. Baugh, Mrs. Ben Mason, Mrs. S. A. Baugh and Capt. Jim Henderson.

ALABAMA FARMER FINDS POT O'GOLD

Total of $1,080 Unearthed Near Athens; Coins Dated Back to 1851

Athens, Ala., Jan. 29 -- A rare find was made Monday at Elkwod, the farm and summer camp of George Woods, Athens' popular jeweler, when Bud Roberts,employed to do some plowing unearthed a pot of shining gold to the sum of $1,080.

This farm in pre-Civil War days, known as one of the many Grigsby farms, has been in possession of Mr. Woods for 25 years, a part of which he has had cultivated during those years.

The gold coins, ranging from denominations of $2.50, $5.00, $10, and $20, were in a china sugar bowl that in itself, would bring a pretty sum from an antique dealer. This however, was broken in many pieces when struck by the plow which scattered the bright yellow coins over several feet of plowed earth.

The vintage of the gold, dating from 1851, 52, 53, 55 and 56, 1861, being the most recent date, would indicate the money was hidden during the war between the states and the location at that time, near a chimney where the house stood. No one living remembers the house of who occupied it those 80 odd years ago. Many theories of this china bowl of yellow gold will come to mind. One of the young soldiers, who buried his wealth and died in the battle of his Southland, or of the father and husband hoping to save something from the invading enemy, gave it into the keeping of a trusted slave who died before the return of the owner.

Much romance may be woven about this "find" which was rescued this week, from its long-forgotten hiding place at beautiful Elkwood on Elk river.

Athens Alabama News, circa 1951 (courtesy of Mrs. Fay Baugh Reinking).

THE JAMES GRIGSBY HOUSE, New Garden, Alabama.

This home was built by James Grigsby (1790–Aug. 30, 1849), the son of John Grigsby (see Robert E. Grigsby's article on this line, this volume.)

"James spent his younger years in expanding his father's interests, so that by the time he chose a wife he was approaching his fortieth year. He married Margaret Martindale (1812–Sept. 12, 1840).

"Bricks for the two-story dwelling were made on the place. Walls were eighteen inches thick, and two entrance doors with Crusader Cross paneling led into the main downstairs rooms. Behind the house James Grigsby had the kitchen, slave quarters, stables, barns, and a cotton ginhouse built to complete the self-sufficient plantation. From the front gallery the Grigsbys could look accross the deep ravine in front of the house to the flourishing town of New Garden on the plain below. The house was completed in 1830." (***The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*** by Chris Edwards and Faye Axford)

Unfortunately, this home burned early in 1982. Before that time, Mitzie Malone, wife of W. W. Malone, Jr. did the painting which is reproduced here. The information and this photograph are courtesy of Roy L. Malone of Athens, Alabama.