

HORSES HAVE LONG BEEN BUSINESS IN GILES COUNTY

by *Claudia Johnson*
STAFF WRITER

The *Whig Courier*, a local newspaper published prior to the *CITIZEN*, ran numerous advertisements offering stud services each spring. While some ads provided basic information, some were several columns of pedigree, testimonials and endorsements. Among the most frequently advertised in the spring of 1839 and 1840 were stallions Andrew Jackson, Glenroy, Tallyrand, Roanoke and Bertrand. Jacks advertised were Big Jim, "a mammoth jack," Bevis, "the Maltese Jack," and Brutus. The most extensive advertisement was for Gold Boy, the following of which is only a portion of a full three-column ad.

Gold Boy

This high bred and much admired stallion has just arrived and will make his present season at Hickory Grove, 7 and one half miles north-east of Pulaski near the main road leading from Pulaski to Cornersville and thence to Shelbyville. I have selected and purchased this fine stallion at a high figure believing from his blood and the high standing of his stock that if there is a horse in the world that will suit the people of Giles County, Gold Boy must be the horse. I do think that if he is not liberally patronized, the people of Giles are dead to their own interest. Jesse Luton,

— March 6, 1839, *The Whig Courier*

There were several references to Hickory Grove in the 1830s and 1840s newspapers, not just a place for breeders to bring horses but as a racetrack that certainly operated at least a portion of the year. I have not been able to determine exactly where this was or find any other information about it.

ROBIN ADAIR

One of the best sons of Old Sir Archy out of Lady Burton also by Old Sir Archy of Sultana by the Barb horse out of the Barb mare presented our Government by the Bay of Tunis through its representative Melle Melle, during the administration of Mr. Jefferson — will Stand at my stable in Marshall County, 11 miles south of Lewisburg and 6 miles south of Cornersville, the present season at \$20 the season and \$30 the insurance.

I will exhibit the get of Robin Adair in Cornersville on the 2nd Saturday in April next and breeders of fine horses would do well to attend. Robert M Walters.

— March 6, 1840, *The Whig Courier*

More than three decades later Wm Perry, whose farm was seven miles west of Cornersville, offered

Young Commodore for a second season. The advertisement states that "Young Commodore's dam is said to be by Gold Boy, he by Industry and he by Sir Archy...the pedigree running back for more than a century through the best stock of Turf Horses that the racing calendar gives any account of."

Over the years the newspaper increasingly carried ads and stories of Giles County's excellent horses.

FINE STOCK — We know of no gentleman in Giles County who has exerted himself more and with greater success to introduce thoroughbred horses and mares into the county than Jas. F. Smith, Esq. Vale Mills. Mr. S. advertises in next column one of the finest thoroughbreds in the country — Bob Johnson, son of the distinguished Boston. He is said to be a beautiful horse with a splendid pedigree.

— Feb. 22, 1867

The George Allman farm in Giles County near Cornersville was among the premier farms in the South in the decades following the Civil War. The *Pulaski Citizen* copied the following paragraph from an 1867 issue of the weekly publication, *Turf, Field and Farm*.

A TENNESSEE BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT — In the Southern part of Tennessee, located in the fertile little Richland Valley of Giles County is one of the model breeding establishments in the country. The estate is a large one, including one hundred acres of beautiful woodland and although level there is not an acre of wash land on it. The place is handsomely improved and it is regarded with pride by the citizens of Southern Tennessee. It is well arranged for the handling of stock, the barns, stables, etc. being large and roomy. Attached to these are houses for servants and offices for grooms. The racks, troughs, fences, yards, etc., are kept in complete repair and always present a clean and neat appearance. There are twelve paddocks and seven fields on the estate, and all are supplied with clear, fresh water, either by bubbling springs or Richland Creek, which meanders through the broad acres. It is a magnificent place and its owner, George T. Allman, Esq., may well feel proud of it. He is a large breeder and on his estate are now found some of the purest bloods of the country. He is careful in his selections, and his breeding establishments owe whatever reputation it now enjoys to his energy and good taste.

In the tradition of its predecessors, each spring the *PULASKI CITIZEN* ran columns of ads for breeders. Allman offered Watson, Gray Albion, Prince Pulaski, Hen-

ry Mambrino, Billy Slasher and a jack, Tom Marshall. JF Smith and AW Carter's ad featured General Rousseau, Eagle and Philip Jr. WGS Anderson ran a lengthy ad for Muggins that included his pedigree to the 16th dam. Light-foot Rattler, a trotting stallion, and Philip, a jack, were advertised by Maxwell, Wilcox and Co. Columbus, it was announced by Maxwell, was withdrawn from the public. Beasley and Williamson's jack was General Blair.

While the newspaper charged for memorials for people, it apparently dedicated, for free, valuable space to obituaries for well-known horses.

JOE BOWERS, THE OLD HERO, IS NO MORE; IT WILL BE SAD NEWS TO EVERYONE THAT KNEW HIM. HE DIED AT THE STABLE OF CALEB THOMAS NEAR LYNNVILLE STATION ON THE MORNING OF JULY 10 AT ABOUT 2 O'CLOCK AFTER A FEW HOURS OF INTENSE SUFFERING WITH SPASMODIC COLIC. JOE WAS 13 YEARS OLD WHEN HE DIED AND WAS RAISED IN MAURY COUNTY WHERE ALL THE CONGRESSMEN AND MOST OF THE JUDGES OF THIS CONGRESSIONAL AND JUDICIAL DISTRICT WERE RAISED. HE PACED 32 RACES WHILE OWNED BY MR. THOMAS AND WON 30 OF THEM. HE WAS GOOD FOR ANY DISTANCE FROM ONE QUARTER OF A MILE TO 20 MILES. WHEN HIS FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES PUT UP ON HIM THEY WERE SURE TO RAISE THE GLAD SHOUT OF VICTORY WHEN HE STARTED DOWN THE HOME STRETCH FOR HE ALWAYS SHOWED UP IN FRONT ON THE LAST TURN. HIS BEST RECORD TIME WAS 2:33, BUT MR. THOMAS CLAIMED THAT HE MADE 2:23 ON A TRIAL.

— July 27, 1872

The depression of the 1870s impacted the horse market as it did commerce and farming. The following is a portion of a commentary on how the price of horses and the poor economy were related.

THE OLDEST INHABITANT NEVER SAW HORSE-FLESH SO CHEAP BEFORE, AND IT IS STILL FALLING. A GOOD PLUG THAT WILL DO TO MAKE A CROP CAN BE BOUGHT FOR FROM \$15 TO \$40 AND SADDLE AND DRAUGHT HORSES BRING FROM \$40 TO \$80 ON CHRISTMAS CREDIT. IT CAN TRULY BE SAID NOW THAT \$5 WILL EFFECT A SWAP OF ALMOST ANY TWO HORSES THAT APPEAR IN THE JOCKEY YARD. — THEY APPEAR TO BE CHEAPER HERE THAN AT OTHER PLACES AS PARTIES FROM ALABAMA ARE BUYING PLOW STOCK FROM THE YARD HERE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS NEARLY AS LOW EXCEPT PROVENDER FOR MAN AND BEAST AND THE SCARCITY AND HIGH PRICE OF THIS MAKE HORSES CHEAPER.

— Feb. 18, 1875

A Fine Buggy

Rainey & Bro. Have recently added to their livery establishment one of the prettiest buggies we have ever seen. It was made by Osborne Buck and Co., Murfreesboro, Tenn., and in addition to its elegant workmanship, it has the merit of being a handsome specimen of Tennessee Skill and industry.

— July 2, 1871

Rainey & Bro. was located on north first-street in 1871. The daily rental rate was \$8 for a horse and carriage and \$5 for a horse and buggy. A short drive was \$2 and a half-day was \$2.50. A saddle horse per day rented for \$2, buggy and harness without horse, \$2.50, and a buggy horse without buggy, \$2. Feeding horses ranged from 50 cents for a single feeding to \$1 per day or \$15 per month.

The 1878 D.G. Beers map of Giles County lists the following horse-related businesses and labels their location.

FG Buford, trotting horses, Buford Station

Joseph Anthony, fine horses, Pulaski

Wm. Fry, fine horses, Lynnville

SJ Hollon, blacksmithing done to order on short notice — repairing a specialty, Bethany

BR Lane, trotting horses, Odd Fellows Hall

MM Mitchell, fine horses, Aspen Hill

TC Reagin, blacksmith, Minnow Ford

HC Topp, trotting horses, Buford Station

James A. Warren, blacksmith, Minor Hill

Redick, blacksmith, Campbellsville

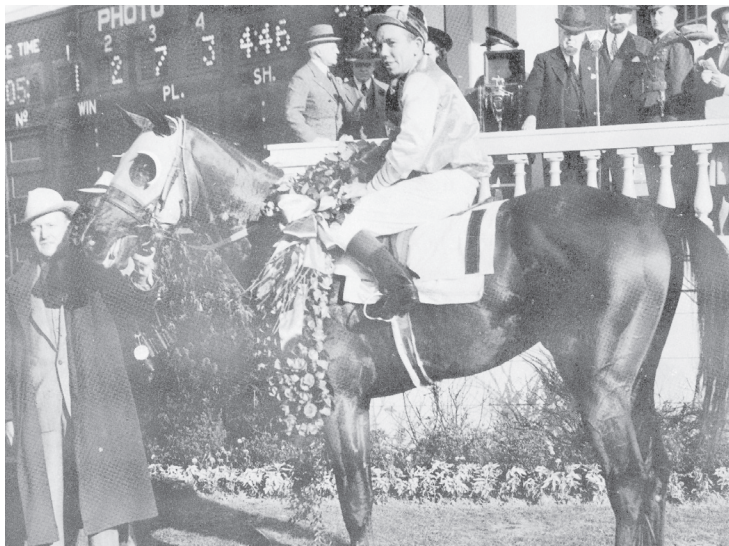
J.H. Jackson, livery, Pulaski

WT Wells, livery, Pulaski

J.H. Jackson owned a huge operation that, according to the DG Beers map, covered the entire block between from North First Street to the west, Jefferson Street to the south, Washington Street to the north, and (what is now) Sam Davis Avenue to the east. A small note in the *CITIZEN* read, "A ride in one of Jackson's elegant buggies, behind a \$2.40 horse is a pleasure that no young man having superfluous greenbacks should deny himself."

Wells business, much smaller than Jackson's, was situated on North First Street in the vicinity just south of the point where First and Second streets split.

On the southeast corner of the intersection of North First and Washington streets was the Wm. Graham carriage manufacturing facility, which produced carriages, rockaways, barouches, buggies, trotting and spring wagons and performed repairs.



A Milky Way horse, Gallahadion, put Milky Way farms, Mrs. Ethel Mars, and Giles County, on the map Saturday, when to surprise of bookmakers and racing experts, he won the American Derby at Louisville.

Bimelech was expected to win and it was thought Gallahadion might come in somewhere down the line. But one of the factors that make horse racing such a thrilling game is the way racers have of breaking up the slate.

Pulaski and Giles County joined in cordial congratulations to Mrs. Mars, who unfortunately was sick with a bad cold in her Chicago home and not able to attend the races.

— May 8, 1940

Giles County Horse Show

J. Stokley Nelson, general chairman of Giles County horse show to be held at Sam Davis Park the night of Aug. 15, today announced the schedule of 10 classes. Added class, Leon Stevenson, owner of Giovanni's New Deal, will offer a leather halter and lead rein each for first, second and third colt, foaled in 1940, sired by this horse and shown under halter in the show.

This show, which will be sponsored by Pulaski Post of the American Legion, is for the purpose of raising funds to help defray cost of uniforms for the Giles County

High School Band. Assisting the general chairman are Guy and Arney Curry. Entries will be limited to Giles County animals. An out of Giles County judge will be named later, Nelson stated.

— July 31, 1940

Note: this is the first mention in the PULASKI CITIZEN of a local walking horse show as we know it today. The Rotary Club's history cites this as the precursor to its Red Carpet Horse Show, though the Rotary was not involved in the 1940 show. CJ

BLOOD HORSE ASSOCIATION

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GILES COUNTY BLOOD HORSE ASSOCIATION ON MONDAY THE 16TH INST. THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS IS ESPECIALLY REQUESTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT.

JNO. C. BROWN, PRES'T.

J.B. STACY, SEC'Y.

— Nov. 13, 1868

THE RACES

Quite a crowd of strangers was in attendance at the [Giles County Blood Horse Association] races last week. Our county men did not patronize it enough it make it a success if it had depended entirely upon home for support. Still it can be said to have been a success, though enough dissatisfaction has been expressed to learn its managers a lesson, which will be to their benefit next year.

— Oct. 28, 1870

Giles County Blood Horse Association

Extensive preparations are being made by the Giles County Blood Horse Association for the fall meeting, commencing on the 18th of October next, in expectation of a very large attendance. In addition to the exercise of the speed ring, it is expected that there will be a fine display of livestock, cotton and woolen fabrics, mechanical instruments, agricultural and horticultural products, etc. Contributions are earnestly solicited to the ladies' department of all varieties usually exhibited at Fairs. It is hoped that they will patronize the culinary department.

The grounds will be free from any semblance of gambling, and the strictest order will be preserved by an active and efficient police. Committees will be in attendance to look to the comfort and convenience of the ladies who may honor the occasion with their presence.

— Sept. 23, 1870

1941 SHOW IS BIG NEWS

by Claudia Johnson
STAFF WRITER

"Giles County Horse Show Expected to Attract Hundreds," the headline for the PULASKI CITIZEN's July 16, 1941, edition read, explaining that the event was sponsored by the Rotary Club and the American Legion under the supervision of Stokley Nelson and Arney Curry.

The previous year's event was sponsored solely by the American Legion and was the first such show reported by the CITIZEN. The GCHS Band, which was the beneficiary of the evening's proceeds, was set to provide music throughout the evening. Prize money totaled \$100 for 11 classes. "Set horse tails barred in all rings except those specified," organizers warned.

The June 24, 1942, edition reported that 65 entries representing five states competed in the Rotary Horse Show with no mention of the American Legion's involvement. Net proceeds of \$400 were donated to the Martin Methodist College endowment fund. JD Coffman, Jr., was event chairman, WT Bowers, business master and Guy Curry, ringmaster. Entries from Haynes Haven (now Saturn Corporation headquarters) at Spring Hill took first and second places.

In the June 23, 1943, CITIZEN, the show was billed as "Pulaski Rotary Club Charity Horse Show," offering 13 classes and prizes totaling over \$750.

Below is a list of winners of various races:

First Day
Trotting Race, 1st money, SA Gordon
2nd money, Wm. Strickland
Running Race, Jno. A. Miller
2nd money, CW McMillion
3rd money, WD Everly
Second Day
Running race, 1st money, 2 mile and repeat, ET Craig & Son
2nd money, WG Lewis
Third Day
Trotting races, 1st money, Flournoy, Clark & Co.
2nd money, AJ Ballentine
3rd money, JW Braden

Horses have been such an important part of Giles County's families, when the Giles Reynolds Family had their portrait done at their country estate, Valley Home, in 1897, Abe Reed was photographed holding their horse, 'Rock Bottom'. On porch: Giles Reynolds, Ethel Reynolds holding 'Cigarette', Mildred Ezell Reynolds, Louise Reynolds Westmoreland (girl), Newfoundland dog, 'Carl'. In front of house: Pinkney Harrison Ezell, Eugene Reynolds with 'Tom and Jerry', Mary Francis (cook), Will Birdsong (yardman)



In the first class, restricted to Giles County entries, only horses with natural tails will be eligible to compete. This fact was stressed by officials after complaints had been received that set-tail horses would hold the center of attention and would exclude the more numerous ones of the other type.

— June 23, 1943

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES OF THE PULASKI ROTARY CLUB CHARITY HORSE SHOW WAS THE COLLECTION OF NICKELS BY ROTARIANS WHO WILL USE THE FUND FOR PURCHASING CIGARETTES FOR THE BOYS IN SERVICE OVERSEAS. ONE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDREDS AND FIFTY-TWO NICKELS WERE COLLECTED AND THEY REPRESENT MANY PACKS OF SMOKES FOR THE BOYS ON FOREIGN SOIL.

— July 7, 1943

Watson

The attention of stock-breeders is directed to the advertisement of Maj. Allman in another column, and in order to show that our opinion of the Major's horse is corroborated by men who have experience in breeding, we copy the following letter written by Judge Barry of Sumner

Maj. Geo. T. Allman,

Dear Sir: I have examined the pedigree of Watson, I consider it very fine. His dam has been one of the most successful producers in America; her stock possesses in an eminent degree that most rare and valuable quality — lastingness. I know of no horse untried in Europe or America I had sooner risk for genuine four miler than Watson.

— Feb. 22, 1868

Running race, 1st money, WG Lewis
2nd money, ET Craig & Son
Fourth Day
Trotting race, 1st money, AJ McKimmin
2nd money, AJ Ballentine
Running Race, 1st money, WG Lewis
2nd money, ET Craig & Son
Fifth Day
Trotting race, AJ McKimmin
Consolidation purse, 1st money, ET Craig & Son
2nd money, WD Everly

Note: The 1878 D.E. Beers map of Giles County shows "Ballentine's race track" in the vicinity of what is now Giles County High School. No clue is given in the newspaper as to the location of the 1870 race. CJ

Horses And The Law

More Stealing, — Whenever we need a short local item to fill up with, we generally step out and enquire of the first man we meet who has had a horse or mule stolen during the past week. We hardly ever fail on the first inquiry this week resulted in the information that Mr. Albert Pillow was the victim. He had a valuable mule stolen from his premises on Thursday night of last week. Horse thieves are having a jolly time in this county.

—Feb. 1867

The Regulators at Their Work

On last Thursday night at about 2 o'clock the jail at this place was forcibly entered by a party of disguised men, who took Jack Barnes, a notorious horse-thief and desperate character out of his cell and carried him out of town. He was found next morning hanging to a tree about three miles from town near Fayetteville road. Papers were found upon his person indicating that a plan was afoot by the friends of Barnes to set him at liberty the same night, which it is thought was discovered by his

executioners, who in the summary manner thwarted their designs.

Barnes was a bad man and has long been a terror to different localities of the county, but it is a matter deeply deplorable that society is compelled to relieve itself of such characters by such means.

—Dec. 4, 1868

Jno. Keiff vs. Robert Lauderdale

This was a suit of replevin brought by Keiff for a horse taken from him by the defendant. Keiff was a Confederate soldier in the cavalry service; his Colonel gave him a horse which was captured from a deserter. Keiff brought the horse home with him after the surrender. Soon after his arrival here and while staying at the house of John Sullivan the def't Lauderdale had him arrested on some trivial charge by the military authorities — the notorious Rexford — and put in the guardhouse. Sullivan in order to get his friend out of prison paid Rexford a handsome sum and gave the horse to Lauderdale. After civil law was restored Keiff brought suit for his horse. The jury gave Keiff his horse and \$20 damages. A just verdict.

—Aug. 28, 1868

A horse belonging to Mr. Foust fell into an old cistern near the Malone house on the hill on last Saturday and for a miracle was not killed but was badly hurt. Our informant, Master Frank Rose, tells us that there was water in the cistern and that the horse when drawn up by some twenty men, hobbled off with a chill on him.

—Aug. 26, 1875

It should be the aim of the municipal authorities in a shire town like Pulaski to afford country people of all possible conveniences so as to make them feel that it is their county town and that it is their friend. A policy, which embitters the country people and drives them from us, is a suicidal one. They do not object to a strict and even a right enforcement of law nor to any reasonable municipal regulation, but they like to feel that they are welcome when they come to town — that they are not looked upon as interlopers. Let us provide convenient hitching places and plenty of them and either put out shade trees or build shelters over the racks. It will not be money thrown away.

—May 30, 1878

Man sentenced to hang for horse stealing

Green Turner, a minister in the Northern Methodist Church, was found guilty in a jury trial of stealing a mule and sentenced to be hanged, making him the only person to be sentenced to death by a Giles County court in 40 years, according to the Aug. 1, 1871 PULASKI CITIZEN.

It was the first instance in the state where the extreme penalty of the statute against horse stealing was adjudged.

In pronouncing the sentence, the judge advised Turner to "devote what time remained to him in preparing for the world to come, to consume it in these spiritual offices, that prepare the soul of man for the presence of Him from whose judgment heat there is no appeal."

During his trial Green frequently compared his own case to that of Jesus "when he rode into Jerusalem on a mule that he found tied to a tree" and argued that he "simply followed the example of this Master."

The following year the CITIZEN reported that the Tennessee Supreme Court remanded the case to the local court for a new trial. Sheriff Parsons reported that Green returned "looking ashy, dirty, lousy and half-starved, and would hardly be recognized as the sleek, well-fed parson who left his hands only a few months ago."CJ

Training of Horses

There are a few very simple common sense rules which if followed will commend themselves to the horse as well as to the trainer, viz:

1. Always feel kindly towards a horse, no matter what he does to you and consequently never use "temper." Remember, the horse knows instinctively how you feel.
2. Never go near a horse if you are afraid of him. The horse will know it and take advantage of it before you acknowledge it yourself.
3. Never undertake anything with a horse that you do not know you can carry through.
4. "Make haste slowly," teaching the animal what you want of him as a child learns his A-B-C's one letter at a time, being sure he knows each simple thing before you attempt to teach another and repeat lessons often.
5. Reward each effort to do as you wish, whether he means it or does it accidentally.
6. Be sure that it is your will and not his that conquers every time.

Following these rules, you may make a horse do almost anything, if he has not been spoiled before you get him. Spring, 1866

A man who neglects the regular grooming of his horse is an enemy both to the beast and himself; to them because he withholds labor which is their due and to himself because he depreciates the value of his own property.

—Sept. 4, 1868

Giles Horse Show

In the Horse Show, limited to Giles County Horses, Thursday night there was a good crowd in attendance, estimated at a thousand or more. And ninety-two horses and ponies in all classes, competed for prizes.

Net proceeds, after paying all necessary expenses, amounted to something over \$150 to apply on band uniforms. In addition to gate receipts, some of those who won prizes, donated the full amount to the band.

Walter Joe, Arney Currey's horse, with Mr. Currey up, won first in the sweepstakes class.

Gene Autry, W.L. Shaw's entry, won second.

Following are the winners in the different classes:

Class No. 1 — Colts foaled in 1940,:Newt White, owned by Alf Claggett; Rachel, owned by Smith Howard; Nell, owned by C.A. Paysinger.

Class No. 2 — Walking po-

nies: under 58 inches — Little Man, owned by Dollary Derryberry; Johnny, owned by Tom Yokley; Daisy Mae, owned by Harold Derryberry.

Class No. 3 — Yearling colts: June, owned by W.J. Baucom; Dempsey Queen, owned by Melvin Hamlett; Tom, owned by Bob Curtiss.

Class No. 4 — Two-year-old walking: John Redwing, owned by Derryberry Scott; Nell, owned by Stone Shaw; Mary Glenn, owned by Emery Harlow.

Class No. 5 — Best three-year-old Walking: Walking Joe, owned by Arney Curry; Gene Autry, owned by Stone Shaw; Nelly Clara, owned by Oscar Johnson.

Class No. 6 — Best four-year-old walking: Mickey, owned by Erskine Scott; Porter Allen, owned by Robt. Blackburn; Baby Lou, owned by Johnny Burris.

—Excerpt from Aug. 21, 1940 article