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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

HISTORICAL DATA

THE DOVER HOTEL

Dover, Tennessee

by

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Research Historian

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FORT DONELSON NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Region One
Richmond, Virginia

Memorandum

To: The Director
From: Acting Regional Director
Subject: Historic Structures Report, Historical Data, Part I,
Dover Hotel, Fort Donelson National Monument

Forwarded herewith for your review are two (2) copies of the subject report, prepared by Research Historian Edwin C. Bears.

E. W. Lisle
Acting Regional Director

Attachments (2)

Copy to: Chief, w/copy of report
Supt., Fort Donelson NM w/c of report
Research Historian Bears * * *

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FOREWORD

The Dover Hotel, located in Dover, Stewart County, Tennessee, was probably built between 1851 and 1853. From the time of the construction until 1925, the building, except for several brief periods during the Civil War, was used as a hotel. In February 1862, the hotel served as Brigadier General Simon B. Buckner's, and probably Brigadier General John B. Floyd's, headquarters. Following the capture of Fort Donelson by the Union forces led by Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant, the building was converted into a military hospital.

Upon the return of peace to the troubled country in 1865, the military evacuated the Dover area. The building then served the traveling public until 1925. During this time, the inn was known by a number of different names -- the Dover Hotel, Commercial Hotel, the Hobing Hotel, etc. After Mrs. Elizabeth L. Hobing and her daughter closed the hotel in 1925, the building was scheduled to be razed. A group of historically-minded, public-spirited individuals, however, became interested in the old hotel. This led to the establishment of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association, which purchased the building in 1928. A restoration project was undertaken and the structure was opened to the public as a museum on September 1, 1930. For the next 29 years, the Fort Donelson House Historical Association

kept the structure open to the public as a historic house and museum.

Information on the Dover Hotel in the period before the organization of the Fort Donelson House Association is very scarce and fragmentary. In an effort to fill in the missing pieces, the Research Historian has consulted or contacted all the readily available sources (the Library of Congress; the National Archives; the Tennessee State Library and Archives; Chicago Historical Society; Illinois State Library; State Historical Society of Wisconsin; State Historical Society of Iowa; the files of the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle; and the Warren County Library, of Morrisouth, Illinois).

Location and Brief Description of the Dover Hotel

The Dover Hotel is located on the corner of Petty and Water streets, in the town of Dover, which is located in Stewart County, Tennessee. The building is situated on Lot No. 112.

The building is a two-story frame structure covered with a tin roof. There is a large three-room basement. The building fronts on Petty Street and faces to the east.

On the lot, in addition to the building, are a cistern and two outbuildings. The cistern was abandoned in 1954 when a water system was installed in the house.

PART I

THE ORGANIZATION OF STEWART COUNTY AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF DOVER, TENNESSEE

Stewart County was created on November 1, 1803, by the First Session of the 5th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. The new county which was carved out of Montgomery County was named for Duncan Stewart, a pioneer farmer. Section Eight of the act establishing Stewart County provided for the appointment of a three man commission (George Petty, Caleb Williams and James Taggart). These men were directed to select a site for the county seat of Stewart County, and were authorized "to purchase from the owner or owners 30 acres of land, including the site so selected, and shall thus deed for the same" ¹

According to the stipulations of Section Nine of the act, this commission was delegated the task of laying out the county seat. One and one-half acres of the land enclosed within the boundaries of the proposed town were to be reserved "for the public square, including the space fixed on for the erection of the court house, jail and stocks". The legislature designated Morace as the name for the future town.

Section Ten of the act provided for the sale of the lots at public sale at six months credit. The proceeds from the

sale were to be applied to defraying the purchase of the 30 acres of land and the construction of a courthouse, jail and stocks. Furthermore, the three commissioners were authorized to prepare plans and award to "any suitable persons the contract for the erection of said public buildings".³

By the latter part of 1805, the three man commission had selected and purchased 30 acres of land belonging to Robert Nelson. The 30 acres were immediately surveyed by John Scarborough and William Outlaw and divided into lots which were sold at public auction. Next, work was started on the courthouse, jail, stray and stocks. The courthouse, a one-story, double log structure, was completed and ready for occupancy by June of 1806. The courthouse cost the new county about \$600.00. A jail, also of logs, was built at about half the expense of the courthouse. Contrary to the wishes of the General Assembly, the county seat was named Dover instead of Monroe. The editors of Goodspeed's HISTORY OF TENNESSEE were unable to account for this departure from the legislature's instructions.⁴

As soon as the courthouse was completed, the June term of the court was held in the new building. At this sitting, the court authorized George Petty to keep a tavern at his house in Dover. When he opened for business, Petty announced the following prices: 1/2 pint of whiskey \$0.12 $\frac{1}{2}$; one pint of rum \$0.03 $\frac{1}{2}$; one-half pint of brandy \$0.12 $\frac{1}{2}$; a portion of meat \$0.12 $\frac{1}{2}$; feed for

one's horse, \$0.12½; lodging \$0.06½.

In 1820 the jail caught fire and burned. The only inmate, a Negro, was fatally burned in the conflagration. One year later a new jail 22-foot square built of logs with a stone foundation was erected at a cost of \$500.00. The following year (1823) the court appointed a commission consisting of James Russell, William Randall, George Petty, David Moore and Emanuel Jones. This group was given the mission of preparing plans, laying off, and letting the contract for a new brick courthouse. Furthermore, the commission was directed to supervise the construction of the new courthouse, which was located on the ground where the present building stands. It was November 1826 before the new building, a two story brick structure costing about \$8,000.00, was declared completed. ⁶

Between 1826 and the Civil War, the brick courthouse served the needs of the residents of Stewart County. During the same period the county had a number of jails. In 1830 the jail was burned and rebuilt. This building lasted until 1846 when it caught fire and burned to the ground for a third time. Undaunted, the residents of the county immediately raised another jail. This structure stood until 1856 when it was reduced to ashes. From 1856 until 1860 there was no jail in Stewart County. The prisoners were incarcerated at Clarksville or in a steel cage placed in one of the rooms at the courthouse. In 1860 a new jail

was erected on the lot on Petty Street opposite the Dover Hotel. ⁷

Besides being the county seat, Dover was located on the Cumberland River, an important inland water route. Accordingly, there was an early and constant demand for the types of services provided by hotels and taverns. One of the first acts of the county court was to issue a license to George Petty to keep a tavern in his house. During the 1840's, there were two hotels in Dover -- one run by H. L. Atkins, the other by J. H. Petty. In the following decade a third inn opened for business. This hotel was run by R. T. Daniel, and was to gain subsequent fame as the "Dover Hotel". ⁸

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOT NUMBER 112

The first man to own the land on which the hotel is situated was Robert Nelson. On May 8, 1803, the state of Tennessee issued Warrant Number 260 granting a 274-acre tract to Robert Nelson and his heirs. The property involved was described as a certain tract or parcel of land containing 274 acres lying in Stewart County in the 1st District, 22d Range and 3d Section on the south side of the Cumberland River. This entry in the county deed book was undoubtedly entered at a later date, because Stewart County was not formed until November 1803. Nelson's title to the 274 acres was confirmed by an indenture dated December 4, 1804.

from the sheriff of Montgomery County, John Cooke, to Robert Nelson. ⁹

Nelson died in 1806 and Hugh Bell was appointed his administrator. Accordingly, many of the lots in the town of Dover were conveyed in the name of Robert Nelson, by Bell, to fulfill the agreements Nelson had made with the commission to sell and convey such lots in Dover to various purchasers. Therefore, a search of the Stewart County Deed Books for this period has failed to divulge an instrument conveying the title for Lot Number 112, on which the Dover Hotel is situated, to William Pryor. On March 13, 1816, Pryor sold for \$50.00 to Robert Cooper, "his heirs and assigns forever", Lot Number 112 in the Town of Dover. ¹⁰

Robert Cooper died in March 1824. Lot Number 112 and the other lots owned by Robert Cooper were sold by the Cooper heirs to Cullen Bayliss and Cave Johnson. On January 1, 1831, Cullen Bayliss transferred to Elbert Bayliss one-half the undivided interest in all the lots which he owned in the town of Dover. ¹¹ Nine years later, on October 6, 1840, Elbert Bayliss conveyed to Samuel Kercheval of Missouri, "lots 55, 56, 57, 60 and 61 and also [his] ... interest in the balance of the lots in the said town of Dover" owned by him and Cave Johnson. ¹²

Samuel Kercheval of Missouri, on July 11, 1842, gave

Elbert Bayliss his power of attorney for the purpose of disposing "of any or all lots in the Town of Dover sold to said Samuel Kercheval by Elbert Bayliss" ¹³ On December 19, 1846, Elbert Bayliss, in his capacity as agent for Samuel Kercheval, sold to John H. Petty for \$50.00 one-half interest in lots 68, 69 and 112 in the town of Dover. ¹⁴ John Petty, in turn, sold one-half interest in Lot Number 112 to George B. Petty on March 8, 1849, for \$20.00. ¹⁵ Nine months later, on November 19, George Petty gave Cave Johnson \$40.00 for one-half interest in Lots Number 68, 69 and 112. ¹⁶ Thus, for the first time since the 1820's, Lot Number 112 came into the possession of a single individual. George Petty held Lot Number 112 until August 9, 1851, when he sold it to E. P. Petty for \$50.00. ¹⁷

HISTORY OF THE DOVER HOTEL -- FROM ITS CONSTRUCTION UNTIL 1928

Lot Number 112 next passed into R. T. Daniel's hands. It is probable that either E. P. Petty or R. T. Daniel built the tavern in the period between 1851 and 1853. In the latter year, there is an entry in Deed Book, Vol. XVIII, 427, stating that Joel Bayliss sold to R. T. Daniel a tract of land between the Daniels' dwelling and the river. ¹⁸ Two years later, on January 3, 1855, R. T. Daniel conveyed to William Bell, trustee, \$800.00 borrowed from Elizabeth Meigsbee on the house in which Daniel resided in the town of Dover. ¹⁹ On June 7, 1859, R. T. Daniel

conveyed to William Bell his "house and lot in which I live in the town of Dover, known and designated in the plan of said town as Lot No. 112, the same on which the Dover Hotel is situated". The purpose of this transfer was to secure the payment of a note for \$459.87 which fell due on January 1, 1860 to T. D. Mookabee, the guardian for R. W. Mookabee. 20

Thirteen months later, on July 24, 1860, the hotel and lot were sold to F. P. Gray by T. D. Mookabee. The receipt for this sale was embodied as evidence in the lawsuit of W. C. Daniel vs. James S. Roll in the Stewart County Chancery Court on April 14, 1866. The receipt filed by Mookabee read:

Received of F. P. Gray, \$475.50, in full of my debt, and \$459.87, with interest thereon, against the late R. T. Daniel and which was secured by a deed of trust on Lot Number 112, made by said R. T. Daniel, to William Bell, on June 7, 1859, and which lot was this day sold by the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Dover and bid off by me. Therefore, in consideration of the said sum of \$475.50 priced to me as above stated, I do hereby transfer to the said F. P. Gray all of my rights as purchaser of said town lot, at said sale, and hereby authorize the Chancery Court at Dover, to make to said F. P. Gray, a title to said town lot in the same numbers as if he had been the original purchaser thereof. 21

Prior to the fall of Fort Donelson and the occupation of Dover by the Federals, the Stewart County records were removed from the courthouse by the officials and buried. Accordingly, no records were maintained in Stewart County from 1862 until 1865.

It was fortunate that the records were hidden, because the courthouse was burned in 1862. When peace returned to Stewart County, the records were returned to the custody of the officials charged with their safekeeping and the courts reopened. ²²

On April 14, 1866, William M. Cooley acquired the hotel from F. P. Grey. Evidently, the Daniel heirs had sued to recover the building. The chancery court decreed on April 14:

... that the said F. P. Grey has transferred his bid, and all interest he has by virtue of said bid in and to said lot No. 112 to W. H. Cooley, and the court being satisfied that the said W. H. Cooley is now the true and rightful owner of said town lot No. 112, it is, therefore, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the court that the sale to Grey, and transferred to W. H. Cooley, of said town lot No. 112, be and the same are hereby conferred, and the title to the said lot No. 112, in the town of Dover be and the same is divested out of the heirs, and devisees of the said R. T. Daniel, deceased, and out of the said F. P. Grey and his heirs forever, and that the same be vested in the said W. H. Cooley and his heirs. ²³

W. M. Cooley owned the hotel until June 3, 1867. On that date he sold Lot Number 112 "with all buildings" to P. G. Sexton for \$1,250.00. ²⁴ Fifteen months later, P. G. Sexton, on September 18, 1868, transferred the hotel to S. W. Cooley for \$1,250.00. At this time, the property was described as located on "the west side of Petty street near the Cumberland River on which the tavern and gardens and stables and cisterns are situated which is now occupied by P. F. Tavel as a Traveling tavern fronting on Petty Street". ²⁵

In an advertisement appearing in The Dover Record on March 11, 1870, Cooley announced:

Dover Hotel
at
Upper Steamboat Landing
Dover, Tenn.
S. V. Cooley, Proprietor

I would most respectfully inform my friends and the public generally, that I have taken charge of the above House and that I am now prepared to entertain the travelling public
IN GOOD STYLE

Charges reasonable

Feb 21 26

Five days later, S. V. Cooley sold the hotel to W. M. Cooley. He received \$1,000.00 for his property. In the Deed Book, the property purchased by W. M. Cooley was described as "in the town of Dover and near the Cumberland River, and upper tract opposite the jail house for Stewart County on which stands a house used as a tavern".²⁷ W. M. Cooley held possession of the hotel for a little over two months.

Before five weeks had elapsed, W. M. Cooley decided to sell the hotel. The notice which Cooley placed in The Weekly Record contains the earliest description of the hotel located by the Research Historian. Cooley's advertisement reads:

I offer my tavern property in the town of Dover, Tenn. for sale, consisting of about one acre of land with the tavern building which is two story high and has 16 rooms, with a basement, necessary stables, etc., and is situated at the upper steamboat landing; and is very desirable property. Price \$1300;

\$800 down, balance will be taken in good trade at cash price, or note with good security at 10 months. 28

At this time, Dr. J. A. Floyd (a dentist) and his wife (a dressmaker) established their offices at the hotel. The Floyds utilized The Weekly Record to announce that they were in business. 29

The advertisement which appeared in The Weekly Record brought a quick response. On May 20, Cooley sold the lot and buildings to T. D. and Addaline Methery. Cooley, however, accepted \$1,000.00 (\$300.00 less than his asking price) for the property. The entry in the Deed Book which described the property involved in this transaction located the hotel near the "upper ferry landing or wharf". 30

Tax receipts for 1873 and 1874 are still in existence in the Stewart County courthouse. In the former year, the Metherys' taxable property was assessed at \$1,812.00, and in the latter at \$1,700.00. The Metherys paid \$19.06 in taxes in 1873, and \$15.30 in 1874. 31

T. D. and Addaline Methery operated the tavern until October 29, 1877. On that date the Metherys sold the hotel and lot to Mrs. Amelia Yates, for \$700.00. The deed of trust described the property involved in the transactions as the "Dover Hotel ... situated near the upper ferry and opposite the old jail lot". 32 (The county jail had been burned in 1863. It was 1870 before a

new one was erected. When the new jail was constructed, it was located in a different part of the town. However, the lot across the street from the Dover Tavern was referred to for many years as the "old jail lot".)

After purchasing the property, Mrs. Yates changed the name of the hotel. It was renamed the Commercial Hotel. Amelia Yates married W. G. Birchett on April 30, 1878. Ten months later the Birchetts, by deed dated March 5, 1879, conveyed to S. D. Scarborough in trust lots Number 111 and 112. The Commercial Hotel was described as located on Lot Number 112 opposite the old jail lot. The consideration given by Scarborough was \$375.00. On July 27, Birchett shot his wife and daughter, "Haggie", and then committed suicide. Mrs. Amelia Yates Birchett died within several days from the effect of her wounds; the daughter recovered. ³³ Scarborough, acting as trustee for the Birchett estate, disposed of the property on April 3, 1880. The Commercial Hotel and Lots Number 111 and 112 were sold to M. W. Tucker, William Varner, A. B. Ross and W. J. Hagler for \$425.58. ³⁴ John Hobing, on February 8, 1882, purchased the hotel from the four men (Tucker, Varner, Ross and Hagler) for \$500.00. At this time, it was noted in the Deed Book the "Commercial Hotel is situated on west side of Petty Street opposite old jail lot". ³⁵

On taking possession of the inn, the Hobings changed its name to the Hobing Hotel. In addition, the Hobings changed

the interior of the building. Walls were knocked down, and the rooms enlarged. Tax receipts on the lot and hotel are available for representative years during the latter two decades of the Nineteenth Century. They are:

	<u>1883</u>	<u>1885</u>	<u>1899</u>
Value of town lot	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total real, personal and other property	\$600.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
State tax	\$1.80	\$1.50	\$1.75
County tax	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
School tax	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$2.40
Bridge tax	\$.80	\$.25	\$ ----
Highway tax	<u>\$.40</u>	<u>\$.25</u>	<u>\$.90</u>
Total taxes	\$6.75	\$5.50	\$6.55

John Hobing and, after his death, his wife, Elizabeth L., held title to the hotel and lot until they were sold to the Fort Donelson House Historical Association on March 10, 1928. 37

PART II

THE DOVER HOTEL DURING THE CIVIL WAR

There is almost no information available pertaining to the Dover Hotel before the Civil War. A thorough examination of the Dead Books for Stewart County indicates that the hotel was probably built in the period between 1851 and 1853 by either E. P. Petty or R. T. Daniel (probably the latter). The Dover Hotel was operated by R. T. Daniel until his death on September 16, 1859. Following Daniel's death, the Dover Hotel passed into the hands of T. D. Mockabee, who conveyed it to F. P. Grey on July 24, 1860. Grey was the owner of the Dover Hotel in February 1862 when Stewart County became the focal point for the powerful armies which were struggling for the heart of the continent.

Several months before any direct threat to the Dover area developed, the commandant of the Fort Donelson garrison, Lieutenant Colonel Randall W. MacGavock, established his quarters in the town. One of the three taverns then located in the town (Adkins', Hatcher's, and the Dover Hotel) probably served as MacGavock's headquarters. The Rebel brass were understandably disturbed to learn that MacGavock was not in the habit of sleeping at the post. In November, therefore, when Brigadier General Lloyd Tilghman assumed command of the troops charged with

the defense of Forts Donelson and Henry, he was notified by General Albert Sidney Johnston that in the future such conduct would not be "tolerated".¹ Accordingly, when he reached Dover, Tilghman established his command post at the fort.

Immediately following the fall of Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, the Confederate authorities began pouring heavy reinforcements into the Dover area. Suitable quarters in the small town for the generals and their staffs were at a premium. When Brigadier General Gideon J. Pillow reached Dover on the evening of February 8, he established his headquarters in the John E. Rice house. The Rice house was a large two story building located one block south of the courthouse.² Brigadier Generals John B. Floyd and Simon B. Buckner, on reaching Dover probably established their quarters in the Dover Hotel. From the time of his arrival at Dover on the evening of the 11th until the morning of the 16th when the Confederates surrendered, Buckner spent very little time at the hotel. Instead, the general passed most of his time at the front.³ In his brief "After Action Report", Floyd failed to identify his quarters. Floyd died in August of the following year, therefore, he left very little information behind concerning his activities during the Fort Donelson campaign.⁴ Accordingly, the Dover Hotel, except for providing food and lodging for the generals and their staffs, played only a minor part in the Fort Donelson drama until

the morning of February 16.

Brigadier General Lewis Wallace was the first Union general to reach the Dover Hotel following the Confederates' surrender. Furthermore, Wallace was the only one of the participants in the final act of Fort Donelson to describe the hotel. On the morning of the 16th, Wallace had massed his command, preparatory to launching an attack on the Rebel defenses in the Wynn's Ferry road sector. Since his deployment had taken place within musket range of the foe's rifle pits without eliciting any opposition, Wallace began to wonder if perhaps the combat on the previous day had sapped the greyclads' will to fight. Having completed his dispositions, Wallace anxiously awaited the order to have his men rush the buttermilk' entrenchments. The absence of any opposition caused some of Wallace's soldiers to speculate on the possibility that the Southerners had already laid down their arms. The sight of the Confederate flag flying over the fort, faintly visible "in the dawn's early light", however, served to squelch these rumors. ⁵

Suddenly, one of Wallace's aides exclaimed, "There -- what's that?"

"Where?", retorted another.

"There -- coming over the breastwork," replied the first officer.

Glancing toward the rifle pits, Wallace noticed that two Confederates had ridden through a gap in the fortifications. One of them carried a white flag affixed to a pole, like a lance. Fearful lest the grayhats utilize the flag of truce to reconnoiter his position, Wallace shouted for Captain Frederick Knefler to find out what the Rebels wanted. Putting the spurs to his horse, Knefler galloped forward and stopped the Southerners before they reached Wallace's picket line. After a few words with them, Knefler turned his horse around. Rejoining Wallace, the staff officer reported:

The bearer of the flag is Major [W. E.] Rogers, of Mississippi. He brings a request from General Buckner that you refrain from further hostilities as he and General Grant have been in correspondence about a surrender, and they have reached an understanding. The major has a dispatch for Grant which he wants permission to deliver in person.

Wallace considered this "great news indeed -- news to justify a display of excitement". However, the general did not consider Major Rogers' statement entirely satisfactory. Accordingly, he determined to ask the two officers some additional questions. Following a rather stiff introductory ceremony, Wallace inquired of the Confederates, "So I understand, gentlemen, that the surrender is perfected." "I do not know if a formality will be required", the officer who had accompanied Major Rogers

replied. "With that exception it is a surrender."

Satisfied with the greyhounds' answers, Wallace inquired, "Are you ready to give possession?"

"Yes", the butternuts replied, "The troops are drawn up in their quarters, arms stacked."

Subsequently, Wallace recalled, "At this I felt a quick thrill, which if the reader please, may be set down to a recognition of an opportunity and an irresistible impulse to get there [into Dover] first." ⁷

Wallace lost no time. He ordered one of his staff officers, Lieutenant James R. Ross, to escort Major Rogers to Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters. ⁸ Furthermore, Ross was directed to tell Grant that Wallace was moving to take possession of the fortifications. Captain Knefler was directed to:

... ride to the brigade commanders, and tell them to move the whole line forward, and take possession of persons and property. Tell them to see to it personally that their men are kept in close check -- that I want the business done as delicately as possible. Not a word of taunt -- no cheering. ⁹

The officer who had accompanied Major Rogers looked at Wallace gratefully. Thereupon, Wallace asked him if he knew where

General Buckner was quartered. The Confederate replied to Wallace that he had left the general at the Dover Hotel. After informing the Rebel officer that he and Buckner were personal friends, Wallace suggested a visit to the general's headquarters. Seeing that Major Rogers had not yet departed, the officer borrowed the flag of truce. On doing so, he remarked, "You won't need it." Then turning to Wallace, he said, "Our people are in a bad humor; but I will be glad to have you go with me." 10

Guided by the Southern officer, Wallace and his staff passed through the Rebel lines. The Union officers rode into town, accompanied by their guide, and drew rein in front of the Dover Hotel. Wallace dismounted and entered the building. Here he found himself in a shallow hall. The general stopped and asked his guide to be good enough to give his name to General Buckner. Passing through a door at the far end of the hall, the Confederate officer disappeared from view. When he returned to the hall, the officer told Wallace "to walk in". He did not accompany Wallace. 11

Entering the dining room, the general found Buckner seated at the head of a table. Eight or ten members of Buckner's staff were seated at the sides of the table. Wallace recalled that Buckner rose upon his entry. The Rebel general met him in

the center of the room, "grave, dignified, silent; the grip he gave ... [Wallace], however, was an assurance of welcome quite as good as words." 12

Turning to his comrades-in-arms seated at the table, Buckner, waving his hand, remarked, "General Wallace, it is not necessary to introduce you to these gentlemen; you are acquainted with them all." The officers rose, came forward one by one, and shook the Union general's hand. Wallace recalled that he had met every one of them two years before when he was General Buckner's guest at the encampment of the Kentucky State Guard in Louisville. Two of Buckner's staff -- Major Alexander Casseday and Lieutenant Thomas J. Clay -- had especially won Wallace's esteem at the time of the Louisville encampment. The latter was the last to come forward. As young Clay extended his hand, he turned his face to one side. Wallace remembered that Clay, "cried like a child -- and I could see nothing unmanly in his tears". 13

Next, Buckner wanted to know if Wallace had eaten any breakfast. When Wallace remarked that he hadn't, the Confederate said, "I'm afraid you are a little late, but we will see." The general called for his Negro servant. When the slave thrust his head through the door, Buckner told him, "Another breakfast here."

In response to Buckner's request, the servant brought

in another place setting. Taking a seat, Wallace prepared to partake of his breakfast. His meal consisted of corn bread and coffee. The Confederate officers made no apology for the limited menu, which was the best their kitchen could provide. Nevertheless, Wallace decided in his "own mind that the surrender had not been any too soon". 14

During and after the meal, the conversation became quite animated. The subject discussed was the war, and, more particularly, incidents in the Fort Donelson operations. It amused Wallace to observe how steadfastly the Confederates clung to their belief that the Federals had 50,000 men with more arriving hourly. Since this opinion helped soften the pangs of defeat, Wallace chose not to enlighten them. 15

Finally, Wallace said something to Buckner about the "old flag". As the Union general recalled, "it was an expression of wonder that his congress gave it up for a new one". With this, Buckner slammed his hand down on the table with a bang! "The old flag!", he shouted, "I followed it when most of your thousands out yonder were in swaddling clothes -- in Mexico -- on the frontier -- and I love it yet."

Wallace knew that Buckner's statement was not meant for retort, therefore he held his tongue.

Buckner inquired, "What will Grant do with us?" This question caused Wallace to pause for a moment before answering. Having collected his thoughts, the Union officer replied:

I can't say. But I know General Grant, and I know President Lincoln better than General Grant, and I am free to say that it is not in the nature of either of them to treat you, or these gentlemen, or the soldiers you have surrendered, other than as prisoners of war. ¹⁶

After Wallace had finished, Buckner remarked, "I thought as much." Continuing, the Confederate officer commented, "The only favor I have to ask is that I may not be separated from my friends here." Buckner then inquired if it were proper for him to bring the matter to Grant's attention. Wallace thought that he should. ¹⁷

At daybreak on the 16th Commander Henry Walke having heard rumors that the Rebels were about to surrender, ordered Commander Benjamin M. Dove to take the ironclads Louisville and St. Louis up the river and see if could induce the foe to surrender to the navy. Casting off with his two ironclads, Dove observed on approaching the Water Batteries, that two white flags were flying over the upper one. The gunboats stopped, while Dove transferred to a tug. Once a flag of truce had been hoisted, the tug proceeded up the Cumberland. The small boat

pulled into the shore immediately below the Water Batteries. Here the commander was met by a Confederate major, who tendered his sword to the naval officer. Dove declined to receive the sword, believing that it was proper to "consult with General Grant" first. Taking the major on board, the tug again headed upstream. Once the vessel had tied up at the upper steamboat landing, Dove proceeded to the Dover Hotel where he was informed by the major that Buckner maintained his GHQ. ¹⁸

Reaching the hotel the naval officer, accompanied by the major, headed for the dining room. Discovering the door closed, Dove knocked. In response to the acknowledgment "Come in.", the naval officer entered. As he advanced toward the table, Dove observed that an army officer (General Wallace) was breakfasting with the Rebel brass. After introducing himself to Buckner, Dove addressed several questions to Wallace regarding, as the general subsequently recalled, the terms of the capitulation. Wallace then explained the situation to the naval officer, and told him that he was momentarily expecting General Grant to put in an appearance. After some general conversation, Dove retired from the room, and reboarded the tug. ¹⁹

Following the naval officer's withdrawal, Wallace expressed himself to his aide (Lieutenant Addison Ware) as highly suspicious of the navy's designs. The general remarked "that the

navy seemed to be abroad very early; they were looking for swords, perhaps. I flattered myself, however, that this time I had been about three-quarters of an hour ahead of him." ²⁰

About three-quarters of an hour after Love's exit, General Grant, accompanied by his staff, rode up to the hotel. Despite the brusque tone of his demand for "unconditional surrender", Grant, when he arrived at the hotel, was, to use Buckner's words, "very kind and civil and polite". In the course of their conversation which was very friendly, Buckner told Grant that if he had been in command of the Confederate forces during the investment, the Federals would not have been allowed to make an unopposed approach on Donelson. Grant replied that if Buckner "had been in command ... [he] should not have tried in the way ... [he] did." ²¹ Continuing, Grant added facetiously that Pillow need not have been so anxious to escape. "If I had captured him", Grant noted, "I would have turned him loose. I would rather have him in command of you fellows than as a prisoner." ²²

In the meantime, Grant's headquarters boat, the New Uncle Sam, had tied up near the fort. Grant taking leave of Buckner established his headquarters afloat. During the morning and afternoon, a number of the Confederate regiments stacked

their arms near the bank of the river below the hotel. ²³
Buckner maintained his quarters in the hotel until the 20th. At that time, he boarded the vessel slated to carry him to a prisoner-of-war camp in the north. ²⁴

Following the termination of the Fort Donelson campaign, the powerful armies that had fought for the control of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers quickly moved on -- the Northerners to Pittsburg Landing and the Confederates to prisoner-of-war camps. A small Federal garrison was left behind to hold Forts Henry and Donelson. The Dover Hotel was converted into a hospital for the Dover garrison. ²⁵

On February 3, 1863, a Confederate cavalry force led by Major General Joseph Wheeler attacked Dover. At this time, Dover was defended by a small Union force commanded by Colonel Abner C. Harding. During this engagement a force of Rebel troopers led by Brigadier General Nathan B. Forrest took position across the street from the Dover Hotel near the county jail. The Confederates, attacking in column of fours, surged up Petty Street toward the Union fortifications which were located two blocks south of the Dover Hotel. Supported by the fire of the 32-pounder gun emplaced where the courthouse had formerly stood, the Yankees repulsed this charge. Frustrated in their efforts to bag the Dover garrison, the Confederates retired from the area at 8 p.m., leaving behind a number of dead, wounded and prisoners. ²⁶

PART III

OLD TIMERS' REMINISCENCES OF THE DOVER HOTEL

Interview with Mrs. Florence P. Dobson

Mrs. Florence P. Dobson, who passed her 87th birthday in July 1959, has been acquainted with the Dover Hotel since her youth. Her father, Granderson C. Robertson, owned the hotel located on Petty Street one block south of the Dover Hotel. Mrs. Dobson, in an interview on December 8, 1959, provided the Research Historian and Superintendent Pratt some interesting data concerning the Dover Hotel. Mrs. Dobson, who was seven years old at the time, vividly recalled the day in 1879 when W. G. Birchett shot his wife and daughter and committed suicide. She stated that the shootings took place in the first floor room on the west side of the building, next to the office.

Mrs. Dobson was asked to describe the hotel as it appeared in her youth. She stated that there were formerly two chimneys on the south side of the building. One of these, she stated, had been torn down when the Birchetts owned the property. After the chimney was razed, the bay window was added. Mrs. Dobson recalled that there were no windows on the south side of the building. She remembered that the two windows in the upper

story had been cut while Mrs. E. L. Hobing was the owner; the two in the lower story by Mr. William P. Bruton, after the Fort Donelson House Historical Association had taken possession of the property. Mrs. Dobson's latter statement is corroborated by materials in the Fort Donelson House Historical Association files.

Continuing, Mrs. Dobson stated that after the Hobings acquired the hotel, they knocked out several of the walls in the upstairs. This served to enlarge and make the rooms more comfortable. Messrs. Clarence Speight and Ed Walter corroborated Mrs. Dobson on this point. Furthermore, Mrs. Dobson noted there was a long narrow hall running the length of the building on the second floor. The various rooms opened onto this hall. Mrs. Dobson remarked that the first floor of the building, beyond the installation of a bathroom in 1955, had been altered only slightly in her time.

Being asked to describe the basement, Mrs. Dobson recalled that the kitchen was formerly located in the southwest corner. This is the room in which the fireplace was closed and the chimney razed. The dining room adjoined the kitchen on the north. Mrs. Dobson stated that the cook's quarters were in the northeast basement room. She recalled that there was no door leading from the cook's quarters to the dining room. The door

now there had been cut during the restoration of the building. Mr. Walter corroborated this statement. Adjoining the fireplace, Mrs. Dobson reported, was a doorway.

Before discussing the outbuildings with the Research Historian and Superintendent Pratt, Mrs. Dobson informed them that there had been shutters on the front windows of the main structure.

When questioned about the outbuildings, Mrs. Dobson stated they consisted of a stable (or barn), smoke house, hen house, and toilet. She reported that the residents of the hotel obtained their water from a cistern. ¹

Interview with Mr. Ed Walter

In a separate interview, Mr. Ed Walter, who is 85 years old and has lived in Dover all his life, corroborated Mrs. Dobson's statements. In addition, Walter informed the Research Historian and the Superintendent that when the Hobings owned the property there were no fences (iron or wire), walks (brick or concrete), or screens (door or window) on or around the hotel. Walter identified the outbuildings as: a wooden toilet and stable. He reported that a cistern furnished the hotel with water. Continuing, he stated that when the restoration commenced, the green wooden shutters were removed from the front windows.

These shutters, Walter noted, were made of poplar and were the "up and down" type. Walter recalled that the Hobing Hotel had a famed table, with diners coming from a considerable distance to sample its menu. ²

Interview with Mr. John C. Ralls

Mr. John C. Ralls, of 3912 Trimble Street in Nashville, a former resident of Stewart County and a contemporary of Mrs. Dobson and Mr. Walter, was also questioned. Mr. Ralls likewise recalled that the Hobing Hotel was renowned for its excellent table. All the male guests, he continued, were required to wear coats and ties when eating. The table at which the guests were seated was a long one (of old style) that seated from ten to fifteen people. Ralls reported that the house was furnished with antique furniture. During the days when he was familiar with the hotel, Ralls reported, the Hobings did not use the second story of the building. ³

PART IV

FURNISHINGS OF THE DOVER HOTEL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING
TO R. T. DANIEL

R. T. Daniel, the owner and proprietor of the Dover Hotel, died on September 16, 1859. In accordance with the terms of Daniel's will, the court ordered an inventory of his personal estate. The estate would be sold to satisfy Daniel's creditors. According to the inventory prepared by the court, Daniel's personal estate included:

three head of horses	three wash stands
two saddles	forty-one chairs
one yoke of oxen	six looking glasses
one cart	four wash bowls
eleven head of cattle	three picture glasses
one two horse wagon	two cook stoves
one water cart	one lot castings
two hacks	one loom
six plows	two spinning wheels
two sets of plow gear	four stone jars
twenty head of hogs	one churn
one trading boat	two dozen plates
one ferry boat	one dozen knives and forks
sixteen bedsteads	two butter plates
nine feather beds	three large dishes
nine mattresses with necessary bedclothes	five sugar bowls
three bureaus	one dozen large spoons
one press	four pitchers
one sofa	five common tables
two dozen tea spoons	three pepper casters
four salt cellars	three pair tongs
one dozen glasses	six candle sticks
one shovel	one pair andirons
one center table	books
one candle stand	two preserve stands 1

When the court held the sale of Daniel's personal estate at its October term, it reported it had been able to dispose of the following items:

one lot of scrap iron
one hack
one yoke of oxen
one whipsaw and square
two mowing blades
three horses
five plows
one plow and colter
two carts
two cows and calves
two mules
one boat
one washbowl and pitcher
one bowl and pitcher
one pair andirons
four bedsteads
one mattress
two feather beds
one mat
three lots of chairs
seven chairs
one washstand
one wagon
one auger

one lot of lumber
one dish teapot
two dishes
two butter dishes and sugar bowl
six lots of sundries
fourteen plates
one lot of dishes and plates
three ovens
one bell
one strainer
three coverlets
three quilts
one cot and mattress
one sofa
three looking glasses
two bureaus
three tables
one spinning wheel
one bedstead and quilt
one candlestand
one tea table
four illegible items
one stove 2

PART V

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FORT DONELSON HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Following the death of her husband in the 1890's, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Hobing continued to run the hotel. By 1925, however, the hostelry had fallen into a state of disrepair. Accordingly, Mrs. Hobing closed up the hotel, and, accompanied by her daughter, Elizabeth ("Lizzie"), moved into the two room cottage next door. At the time that Mrs. Hobing closed the hotel, she was reputed to be the oldest innkeeper in the United States.¹ Once the Hobings had vacated the building, the rate of deterioration accelerated. By the spring of 1927, Mrs. Hobing and "Lizzie" had made plans to "wreck" the historic old hotel and erect "a bungalow on the site".²

During the spring of 1927, Mrs. Bryce Runyon visited Dover. Conversing with Mrs. Hobing, she was shocked to learn of the plans to raze the old hotel. Not wishing to see the historic building destroyed, Mrs. Runyon asked the Hobings to hold in abeyance their plans for the destruction of the hotel. If the Hobings would do so, Mrs. Runyon said she would try to interest some patriotic organization in buying the building from them. The Hobings agreed not to call the wreckers, while Mrs. Runyon endeavored to rally support for saving the building. Mrs. Runyon then had the Hobings sign a paper agreeing to dispose of the hotel, if she could locate a purchaser.³

Returning to her home in Clarksville, Mrs. Runyon inaugurated a campaign to save the historic inn. As the first item on her agenda, Mrs. Runyon contacted a local contractor, A. F. Speight and Son. After explaining the situation, Mrs. Runyon asked the firm for assistance. Clarence W. Speight, who had only recently received his degree as an architect, was especially interested in the project. Accordingly, C. W. Speight visited Dover. Having inspected the hotel, Speight wrote Mrs. Runyon:

After carefully going over the old Hobing House at Dover, I find that to recondition and restore the outside of the building, put on a new roof, rebuild front porch, repair all windows and doors, rebuild missing chimneys of brick and repair existing chimneys, repaint the outside and put the inside of the house in a livable condition, will require approximately 3,150.00.

To restore the inside of the house to its original plan and finish as nearly as can be possibly ascertained — I feel that it would cost us not less than \$2,500.00 and possibly more. However, I believe that if the funds for the entire work cannot be obtained in the near future, it would be wise to apply what can be raised to repairing the outside of the house and keep same from further decay. Then, as the funds become available, apply them to the restoration of the inside.

Next, Mrs. Runyon contacted the United Daughters of the Confederacy and other patriotic groups. While expressing considerable interest in Mrs. Runyon's crusade, these

organizations were unable to advance any funds. Finally, Mrs. Ruryon decided to contact Mr. John Trotwood Moore, the state historian. More important, however, Moore was a member of the State Monument and Memorial Commission. This body had been created by Governor Austin Peay and administered a fund of \$50,000 to be used to provide assistance in preserving historic sites and erecting markers in the state of Tennessee. When the project and its probable cost were explained to him, Moore suggested that Mrs. Ruryon form an association to fight for the preservation of the hotel. If she did, Moore indicated, the State Monument and Memorial Commission would match the funds raised by the association. 5

The story of the campaign to save the historic hotel now reached the press. When asked about the project by a correspondent from The Nashville Tennessean, on July 2, John Trotwood Moore remarked:

Fort Donelson was the turning point in the beginning of the Civil War and its environs should be preserved for future generations. I believe if those who are interested in preserving the house will raise one half the amount necessary, the state's Monument and Memorial Committee will be willing to appropriate the remainder.

A reporter from the Tennessean visited Dover. In a

feature article, he described the hotel as it appeared in the summer of 1927:

The front and two sides [of the hotel] rest on a thick rock wall, but the back rests on a wooden sill which has rotted and needs to be replaced. The posts and beams supporting the building are ten to fifteen inch ... [poplar] and cedar timbers. In the upper floors, the leaking roof has caused warping of floors and loosened plaster. The historic basement dining room is low, long and narrow, lighted by small-paned windows and papered with little pine trees on a tan background.

Miss Hobing says that when they [the Hobings] bought the hotel, they knocked out walls, throwing several rooms together, to make rooms of comfortable size. Originally, the guest rooms approximated eight feet square, and were so when Buckner and Grant were there.

Before July 1927 passed into history, the Fort Donelson House Historical Association had been formally organized. Meeting in Clarksville on the 26th, the group elected their officers and adopted by-laws. Officers chosen were: Mrs. Runyon, president; G. W. Scarborough and Josiah W. Stout, vice presidents; Mrs. G. W. Coulter, secretary; and Hugh Harvey, treasurer. This business taken care of, Clarence Spaight informed the organization that it would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000 to restore the building. As the next item on the agenda, the association discussed plans for a state-wide campaign to obtain the funds

needed to buy and restore the building.

It was decided that membership in the association would be automatic upon the subscription to the fund. All persons subscribing on or before September 1, 1927, would be registered as charter members. In addition, it was decided that when the building had been rehabilitated, Miss "Lizzie" Hobing and her mother would be employed as caretakers. 8

Immediately following the organization of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Mrs. Runyon paid a second visit to John Trotwood Moore. The state historian informed Mrs. Runyon he was pleased with the steps taken by the association. Continuing, Moore again expressed himself as confident "the state will match any amount you raise for this worthy cause. You are safe in going ahead." 9

THE DRIVE TO RAISE THE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND RESTORATION OF THE HOTEL

Even before the association had been officially constituted, contributions had started to pour in. In Stewart County where Judge Newell A. Link was in charge of collections, Miss Margaret Stackers gained the distinction of being the first to contribute. Her check for \$1.00 reached Judge Link during the first week of July. 10 By the end of July, the residents of Stewart County had donated or pledged a total of \$361.00 to the

association. The contributions listed in the Stewart County Times ranged from \$1.00 to \$25.00. The average donation was \$5.00. ¹¹ Apathy soon set in and among the residents of Stewart County enthusiasm for the project quickly began to wane. For the first week of September, the County Times was able to list only one contribution, and that was for one dollar. This news shocked Mr. E. P. Martin, of Big Rock, Tennessee. In a letter to the editor of the County Times, Martin caustically commented, "The report showing the receipt of only one dollar last week must be humiliating and discouraging to those who are expected and trying to raise the money to repair and refit the Hobing Hotel" Continuing, Martin noted that he had encountered a number of people who blamed the town of Dover and Stewart County "for not showing a more substantial interest in the movement as Dover and the county would be more directly benefited than other sections." ¹²

In an effort to give the flagging fund raising campaign a shot in the arm, the Fort Donelson House Historical Association decided to sponsor a moving picture in Dover. The movie featured scenes of historical interest in the Stewart County area. Fate appeared to be against the association, and a heavy rain held down the attendance at the scheduled entertainment. ¹³

At best, Martin's letter and the movie gave a slight boost to the faltering campaign to raise funds in Stewart County.

In its November 4 edition, the County Times reported that \$531.50 had been collected or pledged in Stewart County. ¹⁴

In the meantime, Mrs. Runyon had taken charge of the fund raising drive in Montgomery County. Ward and district chairmen were appointed to take charge of the collections in Clarksville and the county. Pledges in Montgomery County ranged from \$1.00 to \$100.00. The great majority were in the \$1.00 to \$5.00 category. ¹⁵ Mrs. Runyon also made a determined effort to enlist state-wide support for the acquisition of the hotel. Letters were addressed to political leaders and individuals with a reputation for philanthropy throughout the state. A number of these people replied to their communication from Mrs. Runyon. Many expressed support for the project, but only a few sent in a contribution. ¹⁶ In addition, the apparently indefatigable Mrs. Runyon endeavored to establish key personnel in every county of the state. Their task was to solicit donations. It appears, however, that this plan foundered on the rock of public indifference. ¹⁷

By November 8 the officers of the association decided there were sufficient funds in the treasury to contact the State Monument and Memorial Commission. Undoubtedly, the group wanted to see if the state would make good its promise to match the funds raised by the association. Interestingly, Mrs. Runyon

addressed a letter to Secretary of State Ernest H. Haston, explaining the situation. Replying on the 14th, the Secretary of State informed Mrs. Ruyon that the State Monument and Memorial Commission would discuss the Hobing Hotel at its next meeting. 18

However, before the secretary of state was able to convene the Monument and Memorial Commission, the Hobings had become anxious lest the project to purchase the hotel collapse. On January 18, 1928, "Lizzie" Hobing called at Judge Link's office. Besides stating that she had not heard anything from the Fort Donelson House Historical Association for some time, Miss Hobing noted she was "getting a little restless". In a letter dated the 19th, Judge Link relayed this information to Mrs. Ruyon. Continuing, Link reported that Stewart County subscriptions to the association totaled nearly \$600.00. 19

Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Ruyon received a sharply worded communication from "Lizzie" Hobing. In this letter, Miss Hobing made the threat, "I can tell them [the association] if they wait a few more months, the old thing [the Hobing Hotel] will be down, and do no ~~any~~ good." 20

Miss Hobing's letter, when taken in conjunction with Judge Link's report, troubled Mrs. Ruyon. Accordingly, she called an emergency meeting of the board of directors. Following

this meeting, Mrs. Runyon, on February 11, addressed letters to Judge Link, "Lizzie" Hobing, and Secretary of State Haston. In an effort to get the State Monument and Memorial Commission to take early action, Mrs. Runyon advised Haston:

Miss Lizzie Hobing, owner of the Hotel, has become impatient, however, and now threatens to wreck the house, building a bungalow on the site, unless we can promise something soon.

While we have not yet raised sufficient funds to completely restore the building, we believe we can make a good beginning, the State helping.

Therefore, we will greatly appreciate your naming a day upon which we may appear before the ... Monument Board and present our case. 21

Judge Link was asked to "investigate and report to us [the Fort Donelson House Historical Association] the title to the old Fort Donelson House, commonly called the 'Hobing House' at Dover, at your earliest convenience." Continuing, Mrs. Runyon observed, "We are confident here [in Clarksville] that the F. D. project can be carried through successfully." In closing, Mrs. Runyon advised the judge that \$655.00 had been collected or pledged in Montgomery County, out of which \$120.00 had been disbursed for "printing, stamps, etc." 22

Besides advising Miss Hobing of the meeting of the association, Mrs. Runyon noted "several plans [for acquiring the

hotel were advanced and discussed." In closing, she promised to notify Miss Hobing "as soon as there is anything definite to tell." 23

Replying to Mrs. Ruyon's letter on the 17th, Secretary of State Haston stated he had "called a meeting of the Monument and Memorial Commission to be held in the office of the Governor, at the Capitol, February 25th, at 1 o'clock P. M." Mrs. Ruyon was asked to see that a member of the association attended the meeting. In closing, the secretary of state wrote, "I would be pleased to have an expression from you as to the approximate amount that will be required for the purchase of the property and its restoration." 24

On the same date (the 17th), Judge Link addressed a letter to Mrs. Ruyon. The judge informed Mrs. Ruyon that Miss Hobing and her mother had agreed to sell the old "Hobing House" for \$1,000.00. Furthermore, the ladies wanted a contract with the association "guaranteeing to them a salary as caretakers of the house" when the restoration was completed. The salary was to be "agreed upon when the deed to the house is signed". Continuing, Link advised Mrs. Ruyon:

... to get this deed signed at your earliest convenience. You no doubt understand the situation as well as I do. It is impossible to keep Miss Link in the same frame of mind very long at the time, while I think her threats are merely bluff. On

yesterday I thrashed the thing out with her, and issued our ultimatum, and told her positively that if she interfered with the plans of the Association that I was out of it, and felt sure that you would be also.

Judge Link notified Mrs. Runyon that he would proceed with the title search. 25

Judge Link was able to complete his examination of the title to the Hobing property by the 24th. Accordingly, the judge forwarded to Mrs. Runyon an affidavit certifying "that Mrs. E. L. Hobing has a fee simple title to what is known as lot No. 111 and No. 112 as shown in the plan of Dover, on which the old Hobing Hotel is situated." 26

In the meantime, Mrs. Runyon marshaled her forces preparatory to an appearance before the Monument and Memorial Commission. Accordingly, she decided to schedule a strategy meeting of the association for the 23d, at Clarksville. At this gathering, a plan was advanced and adopted to have the Hobings "make a written proposition to the historical association toward selling the building to it jointly with the state, and also an agreement on the salary they will demand as caretakers of the building after it has been repaired" As the next item on the agenda, the association appointed a delegation to meet with the commission. The individuals chosen were: Mrs. Runyon, Mrs. Coulter, Judge Link, Judge Stout, and Mr. Speight. 27

Prior to the meeting with the Monument and Memorial Commission, Judge Link paid another visit to the Hobings. During this interview, Link succeeded in getting the two ladies to affix their signatures to "a proposal of sale". 28

On the afternoon of the 25th, the delegation from the association met with the Monument and Memorial Commission. Members of the commission attending the meeting besides Governor Henry H. Horton and Secretary of State Haston were: Judge Grafton Green, chief justice of the supreme court; Edgar J. Graham, comptroller; John Nolan, state treasurer; and Rogers Caldwell. After listening to a report of the progress of the association (the amount of money pledged and donated, the price the Hobings were asking, and the cost of restoring the building), there was a discussion of the need for state assistance. State Treasurer Nolan then introduced a motion for the commission "to match any sum raised by the association up to \$5,000." Taking the floor, Mrs. Runyon announced "that it is the hope of the organization to raise at least that much [\$5,000], which would be \$3,800 above what the association has already raised." Mr. Nolan's motion was seconded by Rogers Caldwell and, encountering no opposition, was passed. The meeting then adjourned. 29

The leaders of the association felt certain that

\$10,000.00 would easily defray the expense of purchasing the property, repairing the building, and equipping the inn as a museum. Furthermore, they planned to ask the next session of the legislature for an appropriation to provide for the upkeep of the historic structure. 30

As soon as the title to the Hobing Hotel was secured, the association planned to inaugurate "a nation-wide campaign to raise additional funds to rehabilitate the building into a museum for Civil War relics" Mrs. Huryon informed the press that 500 pamphlets "carrying pictures of the property and a sketch of its history", written by Judge Stout, were to be mailed to the state adjutants of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic. In addition, these organizations were to be asked to contribute money for the restoration of the hotel. 31

In the meantime, Judge Link had moved to complete the transaction. The judge, however, was delayed in his efforts when Miss "Lizzie" Hobing suffered a stroke and died on March 1. 32 As a result of Miss Hobing's death, it was the 10th before Judge Link was able to consummate the deal. Since Mrs. Hobing, now the sole owner of the property, was past 91, Judge Link, as a precautionary measure, determined to have her son, B. H. Hobing, and his wife sign the deed. In addition, he also decided to

obtain the signature of James Rice, Jr., a nephew. Besides paying the owner \$1,000.00 for the hotel and lot, the association agreed to retain Mrs. Hobing as caretaker for as long as she desired and her services proved satisfactory. Furthermore, Mrs. Hobing and the residents of the old Bell cottage which was located on lot No. 111 would be permitted to use the water from the cistern located in the old Hobing Hotel yard. The deed for the hotel was turned over to G. W. Scarborough, Rogers Caldwell, and S. C. Lewis. These men had been appointed trustees for the association. ³³ When the deed reached Clarksville on the 15th, Mrs. Runyon immediately mailed Mrs. Hobing her check for \$1,000.00. ³⁴

THE RESTORATION OF THE LOWER HOTEL

Immediately following the association's meeting with the commission, Mr. Speight began to devote considerable thought to what projects should have the highest priority in the pending restoration. Speight believed that for \$1,400.00 he would be able to rebuild the front porch, put on a new roof, and repaint the outside of the building. In a letter dated February 27, Speight informed Mrs. Runyon of his estimate. ³⁵

Before the end of March, plans had advanced far enough for Mrs. Runyon to select an individual to supervise the work of restoring the building. Accordingly, Mrs. Runyon decided to

contact Mr. Ed L. Walter, a Dover merchant and farmer with a widespread reputation as a local historian. Mr. Walter, upon being contacted by Mrs. Runyon, informed her that it would "be a pleasure ... to serve with the building committee representing the Historical Ass'n." 36

It was the middle of the second week in May before the association was ready to begin work on the restoration of the hotel. Preparatory to starting the project, a team of officials and members of the association motored to Dover from Clarksville on the afternoon of the 10th. At Dover, the Clarksville party was met by Mr. Ed Walter, a member of the building committee, and Judge Link. After inspecting the old hotel, Mr. Speight, chairman of the building committee, announced that it was planned to begin work at once. Confirming, Speight consented:

... it will be possible to put on a new roof, straighten the rear elevation of the building and restore the two long front galleries or porches with the funds on hand, but that it will be necessary to subscribe more money in order to finish the exterior of the building and recondition the interior. 37

Before the restoration project began, the treasurer of the association, Mrs. Louise Booth of Clarksville, forwarded a check for \$400.00 to Mr. Walter. This draft was to constitute an advance on the work to be undertaken. Mr. Walker, however, had

already made arrangements with the carpenters he proposed to employ. He planned to pay them at regular intervals and send the signed payrolls to Mrs. Booth. Accordingly, Walter returned the check to Treasurer Booth. 38

An examination of the incomplete payroll records in the files of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association indicates that the task of restoring the hotel commenced in July. Mr. Walter, who was in charge of the work, employed two men (H. Littlejohn and A. Hudson), at the wage of two dollars per day. These men were given the task of repairing the north and south chimneys and portions of the building's stone foundation. In order to accomplish this job, Walter contracted for 22 bags of cement from the Joe Martin Company of Dover, and the Coulter Lumber Company of Clarksville. At the same time, Walter ordered paint and lumber from the latter company. The cost of the materials furnished by these two companies totaled \$43.25. In addition, Mr. Walter paid \$20.00 for the masonry used to repair the foundation. It took the two laborers twelve and one-half days to complete the work on the chimneys and foundation. 39

The chimneys and foundation repaired, Walter hired George Byices and Robert Lancaster. The two men were given the job of placing a new sill under the door of the building.

Furthermore, they were to put new joists and flooring in the basement. Removing the old sill, the men found that it was white oak, but hewn on two sides. Pine timber donated by interested parties was used to replace the original sill and joists. For their work, the two laborers, who were paid at the rate of fifty cents an hour, received \$12.50. ⁴⁰

With the foundation of the structure stabilized, Mr. Walter put crews to work repairing the interior walls of the hotel. In addition, several new windows were cut into the building; the roof straightened and braced. Once these repairs had been taken care of, a coat of white paint was applied to the exterior of the building. ⁴¹

By the end of August, the funds in the association's treasury were almost exhausted. The financial statement issued on September 1 by Treasurer Booth listed the organization's receipts as \$2,331.55 and disbursements as \$2,237.29. This left a cash balance in the bank of \$94.06. Besides the \$1,000.00 paid to Mrs. Hobing for the hotel and lot, the association had mailed checks to Ed Walter and A. F. Speight and Son totaling \$1,064.39. The money sent to Walter and the Speights represented expenses for the restoration of the inn. As a result of the depletion of funds, work on the structure came to a standstill. ⁴²

In an effort to stimulate the lagging interest in the old hotel, Mrs. Runyon called an emergency meeting of the association. The group convened in Clarksville on August 31. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the organization would mail 1,000 post cards to residents of Montgomery County, asking for subscriptions. This list had been previously compiled. Furthermore, the association planned to have five teams, whose slogan would be "five hundred dollars in five days", canvass Clarksville.

Before the meeting adjourned, Clarence Speight informed the group, "Ed. Walter, of Dover, overseer of the work, has so far operated very economically and the total cost of the exterior work will not exceed his first estimation of \$1,300." Continuing, Speight reported, "The cost of restoring the upper floors will be at least \$1,000." 43

This double-barreled fund raising campaign was a colossal flop. From September 1, 1928 until September 1 of the following year, the association raised only \$149.52 from subscriptions. Apparently undaunted, the group decided on a new plan of attack. On February 9, 1929, Mrs. Runyon attended the monthly meeting of the Montgomery County Country Teachers. She explained the association's work and goal to the teachers. After

listening to Mrs. Runyon, the teachers voted "almost unanimously" to support the restoration of the Hobing Hotel. A committee was appointed by the teachers "to adopt a plan of procedure". It was decided by this group to launch the fund raising campaign in the county schools on February 18. The drive was scheduled to terminate on March 9. A trip to Dover would reward the first class to have 100 per cent of its members make a contribution.

The association, the school authorities, and the newspapers were astonished by the response to the drive. Superintendent Jobe and his office personnel were astounded on the morning of the 17th when the teachers started calling in to report they had already reached their quotas. The teachers reported "an enthusiastic response from the school children", and expressed themselves as "keenly alive to the opportunity to awaken in the children strong feelings of patriotism and good citizenship". All told, the country schools of Montgomery County contributed \$145.00 to the fund for restoring the old hotel. ⁴⁴

The success of the fund raising campaign in the country schools encouraged Mrs. Runyon to inaugurate a similar drive in the Clarksville. Again her effort to interest the children in restoring the Hobing Hotel succeeded. The Clarksville grade and public schools' subscriptions to the association totaled \$156.11. ⁴⁵

In addition, the association received \$105.35 from interested patriotic, civic, and federated clubs. Of this sum, a portion was subscribed by various posts of the Grand Army of the Republic. ⁴⁶

During the fiscal year September 1, 1928 - September 1, 1929, the State of Tennessee contributed to the association \$1,786.09. In accordance with its agreement to match the funds raised by the association, the State Monument and Memorial Commission provided \$786.09 for the Fort Donelson House project. Furthermore, the state legislature passed a special appropriation to be applied to the restoration of the old Hobing House. In a letter to Mrs. Runyon, dated July 11, Secretary of State Haston observed, "There is no hitch about the \$1,000.00 special appropriation made by the last Legislature for the Fort Donelson House project. It will be forth-coming." ⁴⁷

In the meantime, Mr. Speight had prepared a memorandum, dated February 11, for the association. In this document, he summed up what had been accomplished:

... toward the restoration of The Fort Donelson House, and what we intend to do when additional funds for the work become available.

We have spent approximately \$1250.00 on the work so far, and due to the fact that

this carried no profit to anyone, we have been able to accomplish more for the money expended than I had expected. The old house has been literally straightened out -- foundations and beams restored; crooked and decayed walls straightened and put in good condition; new windows have been installed where necessary; the roof straightened and braced and covered temporarily; two of the three chimneys restored; and the whole of the outside of the house has been painted. We now have the roof of the front porch shored up and ready for the restoration of that portion of the house as soon as we can get the money to proceed.

The work that we have done has been thoro and permanent, and we now have the house so it will withstand the weather, but it is the desire of the building committee to complete the restoration, at least on the outside, as soon as possible. To do this will require about \$850.00 to complete the porch and install a more permanent roof, and about \$250.00 to \$300.00 to rebuild a stone chimney which has been torn away entirely.

As to the restoration of the interior, I will say that at least \$1250.00 will be required to put same in a presentable condition, and twice that amount will be necessary to restore the interior to its original arrangement and finish. ⁴⁸

An examination of the incomplete payroll receipts and bills of the association for 1929 indicates that work was resumed on the historic structure in May. At that time, A. F. Speight and Son sold to the association a large order of materials. These were probably slated for use in repairing the interior of the

building. Among these items were: one keg cut nails, ten sacks of plaster, 68 feet of 8 x 8 flue lining, and 1000 pine laths.⁴⁹

A three man crew was also employed by Mr. Walter at this time. He paid George Sykes and Ponie Dix \$.55 per hour; Alexander Sykes received \$.30 an hour.⁵⁰

In the meantime, Mr. Speight had thoroughly examined the upstairs of the building. On doing so, Speight was able to locate a number of old partition marks. What he was able to observe corroborated the statements made by Mrs. Hobing and others regarding the upstairs floor plan. According to Mrs. Hobing, when her husband had bought the hotel they had knocked out several walls in the upstairs, thus "throwing several rooms together, to make rooms of comfortable size". Accordingly, Speight put Walter's crew to work tearing down and relocating the walls separating the upstairs rooms. The old partition marks were used as a guide. When work was completed on the upstairs, there were seven rooms. The four on the west side of the building were separated from the three on the front by a hall, running the length of the house. Another hall, located next to the U. D. C. room, led from the porch into the long north-south hallway. On inspecting the floor of this hall, Mr. Speight believed he saw evidence of an old stair well. The building committee, however, decided against rebuilding this

inside stairway. 51

Once the upstairs walls had been relocated, Walter put his crew to work on the porch. The columns as well as the upper and lower porch floors were replaced. A draining ditch was also constructed at this time. 52

During the second week of July, the association purchased 7,700 oak clapboards for \$154.00. These clapboards were to be used "for covering [the] main Bldg. and bay window of Ft. Donelson house, Dover, Tenn." Since the bay window was located on the south side of the building where the third chimney had formerly stood, it appears the association had decided against rebuilding the chimney. 53

Between September 1, 1928 and September 1, 1929, the association had spent \$714.80 for labor and building materials. During the following fiscal year, September 1, 1929 to September 1, 1930, the association stepped up their disbursements. A total of \$1,723.31 was paid out during this period for labor and building materials. Unfortunately, however, the association's receipts had fallen off. In the period during which the organization had paid \$1,723.31 for labor and building materials, its income was \$251.26. Thus, when September 1, 1930 arrived the association's cash balance had shrunk to \$92.55. 54

After the building had been weatherboarded and painted, Mr. Walter and his crew removed the "old poplar shingles" which had been used to roof the hotel. A clapboard roof was then put on the building. 55

Upon the advent of cold weather, Walter put the men to work on the interior of the structure. The flooring in the first floor was torn up and replaced. 56 At this time, one of the crew, Ponie Dix, was laid off. It had been decided to plaster the interior walls, therefore, Walter employed a plasterer, Walter Brigham, and his helper, W. T. Shemell. Brigham was to be paid at the rate of \$.40 per hour, while his assistant was to receive \$.17 an hour. 57

During the second week of December, an article appeared in the Stewart County Times. The newspaper story dealt with the progress of the restoration project. The reporter noted:

The apparent slow but steady work that has been done in the remodeling of the old Hobing House into a museum for Civil War relics was interrupted for some days recently owing to weather conditions. Work, however, has been resumed on the building and the workmen hope to complete the plastering this week and begin on the papering immediately. The house has been weather-boarded and a shining coat of white paint applied. The floor of the front porch has been laid and, with no further hindrances, the building seems on a fair way to completion. However, it will be some time before the finishing touches will be made. 58

The Times' correspondent was overly optimistic, however, because the plasterers did not complete their work until January 4, 1930. 59

For the period between January 4 and March 14, 1930 there are neither payroll records nor bills available in the files of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association. Therefore, it is unlikely that any further work was undertaken on the building at this time. Furthermore, it seems that the building, contrary to the article appearing in the Times, was not papered at this time. Beginning March 17 Mr. Walter again employed three carpenters. R. A. Lancaster had rejoined the Sykeses, father and son, on the association's payroll. Mr. Walter put his crew to work finishing the window frames and sashes. To accomplish this task, the necessary materials were purchased from the firm of Cherry & McElroy in Dover. At the same time, H. L. Biggs sold the association the framing which was used to complete the porch. 60

Once this work was completed, Walter had his men "close in the building". To complete the exterior of the structures, 135 feet of finishing lumber was purchased. In addition, \$55.24 worth of hardware and building materials (such as locks, hinges, putty, screws, etc.) were purchased from the following firms: Cherry & McElroy, Joe Martin Company, and J. B. Walter Company. With these items, the crew was able to finish the doors and install the drains and gutters. 61

Once the doors, frames, and sashes had been finished, Mr. Walter employed a painter, A. Halladay, at a wage of \$.27½ per hour. It took Halladay 165 hours to paint the finishings and touch up the building. While the gutters and drains were being installed, Mr. B. Carney was hired by the association and given the job of grading the yard. An iron fence was also erected in front of the hotel, facing Petty Street. ⁶²

Since the association's funds were almost depleted, work on the restoration of the building apparently came to a stop in May 1930. In an effort to obtain additional funds from the state, and to stimulate the lagging interest of the residents of Stewart County in the project, Mrs. Runyon addressed a letter to State Senator Sidney C. Lewis, of Stewart County. This letter, postmarked May 21, appeared in the Stewart County Times. Mrs. Runyon informed the readers of the Times:

We [the association] are very happy over the wonderful work that has been accomplished by Mr. Sykes and his helpers under the supervision of Mr. Ed Walter. The building needs only some inside painting and papering to be finished. We are also anxious to wire it for convenience and to lessen the fire hazard.

Continuing, Mrs. Runyon observed:

As Mr. Spaight's statement shows, remarkably much has been accomplished for the

amount spent. But our funds are low. It is necessary for additional subscriptions to complete the work, which is now so nearly done. A number of persons in Montgomery County have made supplementary subscriptions.

We believe that the citizens of Dover and Stewart County need only to be apprised of the situation to respond generously. We hope they are going to be very proud of their completed museum, and glad to have a part in bringing about its completion. 63

A letter from Mr. Speight, asking for additional subscriptions to the association, appeared in the same issue of the Times. Speight informed the readers:

Some three years ago, as you know, a movement was put on foot to restore the old Hobing Hotel in your city, and I was asked to serve as chairman of the building committee. During the following spring sufficient funds had been raised to begin work on this historic old house, and since that time we have pushed the reconstruction to completing as fast as the funds became available.

We found the house to be in extremely bad repair and have had to practically rebuild it; taking care to preserve as much of the existing structure as possible and to restoration for museum purposes.

With the aid of Mr. Ed Walter and others, we have been able to put the old house in excellent condition and to entirely complete the exterior work for an expenditure of approximately \$3500.00. We are now at the very point of completion of the house and can go no further without additional funds. It is my earnest desire and hope that the people of Stewart County will furnish the necessary

cooperation so that the museum and memorial to the heroes of former days may be made ready during the present summer.

The depression, however, had commenced and subscriptions continued to lag. In an effort to keep the project under way, Mr. Sykes and his son donated one day's labor on July 8. ⁶⁵

In spite of a lack of funds in the bank, the association in August determined to resume work on the building. The reason for this decision was the news that the Sidney G. Lewis bridge, which would link Clarksville with Dover, was scheduled to be dedicated on September 1. The leaders of the association believed additional attention would be focused on the historic house if it could be officially opened to the public on the same date. Accordingly, the officials decided to institute a crash program.

To expedite the work on finishing the interior of the building, Mr. Walter employed five carpenters (George A., Alexander, and Ollie Sykes, Ponie Dix, and Tom Shesell), one painter, Alex Halladay, and Thomas Minton, a paper hanger. Hardware and materials for completing the interior of the structure were purchased from: Askew-Coulter-Owens Drug Company, Cherry & McElroy, J. B. Walter Company, and Joe Martin Company. Once the necessary supplies were bought, Mr. Walter's crew was required to work long hours to get the building ready for its scheduled dedication. By the 1st, the rooms had been papered and the

interior woodwork painted. Mrs. Hobing's furnishings were then moved into the house. ⁶⁶

Meanwhile, the association had acquired several display cases in Clarksville. These cases were repaired and painted by the firm of Speight and Son. Under the same work order, Speight and Son built several gun cases for the association. When completed these cases, which were slated to be used to display the relic collection, were shipped to Dover and placed in the old hotel. ⁶⁷

As the project neared completion, Mr. Speight reported:

... due to the fact that this (money spent) carried no profit to anyone, we have been able to accomplish more for the money expended than I had anticipated. The old house has been literally straightened out -- foundations and beams restored; crooked and decayed walls straightened and put in good condition; new windows installed where necessary; the roof straightened and braced and covered with old-fashioned board shingles; two of the three chimneys restored. ⁶⁸

Before the building was officially opened, one of the Leaf-Chronicle's reporters toured the tavern. He informed his readers:

Partitions have been changed to return to the original floor plan and everything possible has been done to restore the building to its original appearance. The results are of great credit to Mr. Speight

and to Ed Walter of Dover, who has supervised the work without charge, and to John Sykes, the head carpenter, whose interest in the work has been gratifying to the building committee of which Mr. Scarborough is chairman.

Paint, paper and furnishings play their part, and the result is an amazingly attractive and interesting old home. Most of the furniture now in the house is loaned the museum by the Hobings who will also act as caretakers.

A number of interesting historical articles have been given or loaned the museum, and among the most interesting of these are the Civil War pistols belonging to Collier Goodlett of this city. These are placed in specially constructed cases, while ample show space is provided all gifts or loans where they can be safely kept.

The museum equipment committee ... has been working faithfully to prepare the building for the public. However, at the present time, this must not be considered a complete piece of work, for many more articles of historic or educational value are being solicited and will be gladly received by the committee.

An attractive old-fashioned reception room -- it was formerly the office -- first greets the visitor. Then down a winding stairway between whitewashed walls, one steps to the basement dining room where General Buckner, at his breakfast of cornbread and black coffee, received General Lee Wallace. This room is now the museum proper. Adjoining it is the old kitchen, where the paupers were permitted to warm themselves, again being equipped as an old-time kitchen. Articles appropriate to these rooms will be gladly received.

On the second floor of the house at the head of the outside stairway, is the "display" bedroom, and old-fashioned bedroom, fitted with furniture which long stood in this same hotel. Other rooms, partially furnished, fascinate one with imagining what it must have been like to stay over at this hostelry long ago. 69

The dedication of "the Fort Donelson House" took place as scheduled on September 1. The ceremony was a sequel to the program which marked the opening of the Sidney C. Lewis toll bridge across the Cumberland River. A platform was constructed on the east side of the public square for the use of the speakers and dignitaries concerned. Following the bridge's dedication, Judge Link, who functioned as master of ceremonies, presented Reverend A. L. Kirby, pastor of the Dover Methodist church. After Kirby had rendered the invocation, Judge Link introduced Chancellor Stout. The chancellor, a resident of Clarksville, who had spent his youth in Stewart County, was given the task of making the dedicatory address. As his topic, Chancellor Stout chose to give a brief resumé of the history of Stewart County.

Once Stout had finished his speech, Judge Link introduced Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, state librarian and archivist. Mrs. Moore, the widow of the man who had suggested the formation of an association for the purchase and restoration of the old Hobing Hotel, was the day's guest of honor. Next,

Link presented the officers of the association. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the band of the Archie Wood post of the American Legion and the color bearer and guard of Troop F, 109th Cavalry, Tennessee National Guard, headed a procession to the Dover Hotel. Among the dignitaries in the march were: Governor and Mrs. Henry H. Horton; Congressman Joseph W. Byrns; Senator Lewis; Mayor W. D. Hudson of Clarksville; Judge and Mrs. B. D. Bell; and officials of the association.

The colors were posted in front of the building. Here they "blended with the large Confederate flag made by [the late] Miss Lizzie Hobing which fluttered in the breeze from the porch of the home". The band then played a selection.

Mrs. Moore was presented for a second time by Judge Link. She responded with a few brief remarks. She "described her interest in the memorial engendered by ... her late distinguished husband whom she succeeded as state librarian". Mrs. Ranyon then announced that the historic house was ready to be opened to the public. As president of the association, Mrs. Ranyon invited Governor Horton to unlock the door. Once the governor had performed this function, a large group of visitors entered the house and signed the guest register. Many favorable comments about the building and its contents were made by the

visitors. George Sykes, carpenter in charge of reconstruction of the building, assisted in the reception, as did Mrs. Hobing. 70

Earlier in the day, Mrs. Runyon had announced that the house would be open to the public daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Monday, when it would be closed. Continuing, Mrs. Runyon noted that Mrs. E. L. Hobings' daughter-in-law, Mrs. B. H. Hobing, would be in charge of the building. Mrs. Runyon added that "A nominal admission charge would be made". 71

THE HISTORY OF "THE FORT DONELSON HOUSE" FROM ITS DEDICATION UNTIL IT WAS WIRED FOR ELECTRICITY IN 1935.

The outlay of funds made by the association to complete the inn in time for its dedication had exhausted the group's liquid assets. In an effort to obtain money to pay those bills which came due in September, the association turned to the state. On September 15 the association addressed a letter to State Treasurer John Nolan. Nolan was advised that in order to finish the house several members of the association had pledged their own money. Accordingly, the group wished to have Nolan "authorize Mr. Edgar Graham [the state comptroller] to issue a State warrant for \$214.00, [to match the] money raised by public subscription since the last state check was received." 72 State Treasurer Nolan referred the association's letter to Edgar Graham. The comptroller replied on the 19th. He informed the association that

all the funds which the legislature had appropriated for the benefit of the Monument and Memorial Commission had been exhausted. Therefore, it would be necessary for the association "to wait until the meeting of the 1931 legislature to secure an appropriation". In closing, Graham observed, "I am very sorry this has occurred but there is no way by which the State can pay this account now, and I feel sure the next legislature will be glad to make this appropriation for your association." 73

Rebuffed in their attempt to obtain relief from the state, the officers of the association secured a loan of \$300.00 from the First National Bank of Clarksville. With this money, the organization was able to meet the bills incurred in getting the house ready for dedication. 74

During the four month period extending from September 1930 until the next session of the General Assembly which convened in January, the association would have to run the house on receipts from admission and subscriptions or borrow additional funds from the bank. When the legislature assembled, a bill was introduced by Joseph George of Stewart County, asking for an appropriation of \$1,500.00 for the maintenance of the Fort Donelson House. The Fort Donelson House bill was referred to the appropriations committee, where it was pigeonholed. At the time that the legislature prepared to adjourn in June, the Fort

Donelson House bill was still bottled up in committee. In desperation, Mrs. Ruryon addressed a letter to State Representative Austin Peay, the son of the ex-governor. She informed the legislator:

The Fort Donelson House Historical Association had its inspiration in May 1927 and was definitely organized in September 1927, following suggestions and with the approval of Governor Peay and State Historian John Trotwood Moore. We met with the Memorial Board in ... February 1928, who approved the project and voted to match any sum up to \$5000.00 we could raise by public subscription.

We have raised \$2042.73, of which the State has matched \$1851.70. The last Legislature voted us \$1000.00 to complete the restoration.

In order to have the official opening on last Labor Day two private individuals who were deeply interested in this project borrowed ... \$400.00 to finish the inside work and this is now due at the bank. The money that we are asking for is to relieve the indebtedness and to carry out the plans for the interior that we have made. 75

Perhaps Mrs. Ruryon's letter had some effect on the legislators, because before adjourning they passed a bill appropriating \$2000.00 for the preservation and maintenance of the "Fort Donelson Museum at Dover, Tennessee". In spite of the legislative enactment, the funds were not forthcoming. Getting desperate, Treasurer Booth on November 11 addressed a letter

to Roy Wallace, who had succeeded Mr. Graham as state comptroller. Mrs. Booth informed Wallace that the association wished to make application for the money appropriated at the last General Assembly of the State Legislature for the Fort Donelson House" ⁷⁶ Replying to Mrs. Booth's letter on the 15th, Comptroller Wallace observed that "owing to lack of funds in the state treasury it will be impossible to pay appropriation made by the last legislature to the Ft. Donelson House Historical Association". ⁷⁷

When May of the following year arrived and the association received no further information concerning the appropriation made by the legislature, Mrs. Booth wrote Comptroller Wallace a second letter calling his attention to the matter. ⁷⁸ On May 14, Wallace replied:

This will acknowledge receipt of yours of May 7, as to appropriation of \$2,000, for the Fort Donelson Museum at Dover.

Reg to advise we will not be in position, at this time, to issue warrant covering this appropriation.

It is necessary that we spend that money we have for the necessary agencies of the government, especially the penal and eleemosynary institutions.

Just as soon as the treasury will allow we will be delighted to issue warrant to cover the appropriation mentioned by you. ⁷⁹

Unable to obtain the funds appropriated for its relief

by the state, the association was forced to continue to rely on its own meager resources for maintaining the building -- these were admission fees, subscriptions, and money borrowed from the bank. During the first month, September 1930, that the house was open to the public, Mrs. Hobing collected \$24.85 in admission fees. Public interest in the building quickly declined. Income from this source shrank rapidly. During June 1931, the admission fees collected by Mrs. Hobing amounted to a paltry \$7.00. In the period between September 1, 1930 and July 30, 1931, the total fees collected by Mrs. Hobing from visitors to the historic house amounted to \$100.05. To keep solvent and meet current operating expenses, the officers of the association were forced again to visit the First National Bank of Clarksville. This time the officers signed a note for \$198.00. In fact, the situation became so desperate that the association, after November 1930, ceased paying Mrs. Hobing her salary for serving as caretaker of the building. 80

Following Mrs. E. L. Hobing's death in the autumn of 1930, Mrs. Ben H. Hobing furnished the upstairs front bedroom with her late mother-in-law's furniture. Mrs. Hobing had reportedly purchased this furniture from John Bell shortly after the Civil War. 81

In the two year period between September 1, 1931 and September 1, 1933, the association found it a constant struggle to keep going. During this time visitation to the "Fort Donelson House" fell off to practically nothing. Income from admission fees to the tavern totaled \$62.10. Fortunately for the association, the state was now able to make available a small portion of the funds appropriated for the preservation and maintenance of the historic structures. The warrant sent to the association by the state was for \$127.50. Throughout this difficult period, the association was unable to spend any funds on the building, much less pay the caretaker's salary. That income the association had until the grant from the state was received was used to pay the interest on the notes. One hundred and twenty-five dollars of the money appropriated by the state was used to pay off a portion of the note held by the First National Bank of Clarksville. 82

By September the situation was looking so gloomy that the association decided to seek Federal aid. Accordingly, Mrs. Buryon addressed a letter to Congressman Byrns. She informed the congressman that:

In May 1927, the plan to make a memorial museum of the famous Fort Donelson House at Dover, Tennessee was begun. By tireless effort on the part of a small group of

devoted men and women, by public subscription and state aid, the ideal was achieved. The museum opened September 1, 1930.

From the beginning, it has been the dream of the association that this museum might become a National Museum. With the beautiful National Park established there, part of your distinguished service to your State, and the National Cemetery, it seems fitting that the museum be National too. ⁸³

As a result of the economy drive in Washington, Representative Byrns could not offer the association much encouragement. In a letter dated September 23, Congressman Byrns commented:

In my judgement it will be necessary to secure the approval or consent of Congress before this [making a National Memorial Museum of the Fort Donelson House] can be done. I do not know whether it can be done at this particular time or not, since it will involve some expense to the government, and you are aware of the efforts to economize at this time.

In a private interview, Representative Byrns told Mrs. Banyon that he used the "Fort Donelson House" as a talking point when he advocated the appropriation for the establishment of the Fort Donelson National Military Park through the house. ⁸⁴

From September 1, 1933 until March 13, 1935, when the association made its next financial statement, the state made available the remainder of the appropriation voted for the "Fort Donelson House" by the 1931 General Assembly. Furthermore, it

appears the association cashed warrants from the state exceeding the proprietor by \$15.00. During this period the association allotted no funds for the upkeep of the building. Besides paying off the note, the treasurer also disbursed funds to renew the insurance policies on the house. 65

With a cash balance in the bank, the association proposed to pay Mrs. L. H. Hobling \$250.00 for her services as caretaker from December 1930 to September 1933. Mrs. Hobling acceded to this proposition. But she served notice on the association that "she would expect to receive \$25.00 per month" in the future, "else she would leave". To cope with this situation, the directors of the association set an emergency session in Clarksville on December 9. The officers, having received a number of complaints indicating that Mrs. Hobling had antagonized a number of visitors to the home, decided against accepting her proposition. Mrs. Hunyon was directed to write Mrs. Hobling accepting her resignation and asking her to vacate the property, not later than February 1. In spite of the fact that income from fees collected at the house had all but ceased, the directors determined "not to change the price of admission until the next caretaker was secured". 66

Apparently the association was unable to locate another caretaker, because Mrs. Hobling and her spouse were permitted to

remain in the house until January 1935. Throughout this period, admission continued to be charged, but only a few people visited the old inn. Finally, during the winter of 1935, the association secured new custodians for the house, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bruton. An ex-sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, Bruton had traveled widely and had accumulated a large collection of museum objects and curios. The association felt that these items could serve to supplement those already on display in the museum. Unlike Mrs. Coburn, Bruton was interested in his work. When the Brutons moved into the house in March, the association decided to allow the custodian to retain the admission fees, in lieu of a salary. 27

THE ASSOCIATION'S PROGRAM OF REPAIRS

Finally located a satisfactory caretaker, the association decided to authorize some badly needed repairs to the historic structure. At their March 13 meeting, the board of directors discussed the subject of having the house wired for electricity and the roof repaired. Accordingly, on April 11, Mrs. Coburn addressed a letter to Bruton. She asked the custodian to secure an estimate of the cost of wiring the building, repairing the roof, painting the exterior of the structure, and any other repairs he felt were necessary. 28

In May, Bruton informed Mr. Scarborough that Carl Martin of Dover had estimated it would cost \$55.00 to wire 16 rooms, three halls and two porches with one light each. Furthermore, Bruton continued, Joe Mitzell had quoted a price of \$95.00 for painting the outside of the building (including the porches) with two coats of paint.⁸⁹ Satisfied with the prices quoted, the building committee authorized Bruton to have the contractors begin work.

Instead of 22 outlets, Martin wired for house for 20. Accordingly, when the electrician completed his work on June 20, he billed the association for \$67.05. The association, however, paid the bill without any quibbling.⁹⁰

By May 27 the painter, Joe Mitzell, had finished applying two coats of white paint to the exterior of the house. For his efforts the association paid Mitzell \$35.00. The paint used by the painter was purchased from J. E. Crockarell of Dover, at a cost of \$73.00.⁹¹

Simultaneously, Mr. Balous Houston had been employed and given the task of repairing the floors, screens and frames. The association paid Houston \$18.90 for his work. The materials used by the carpenter were purchased from Cherry & McElroy for \$8.93.⁹²

At this time, Mr. Bruton had C. W. Rowlett of Dover repair a panel in the iron fence which fronted the tavern. The cost of this work was \$4.40. ⁹³

The Tennessee General Assembly during its 1935 session appropriated \$1,530.00 to be used for the preservation and maintenance of the "Fort Donelson House". Like the previous appropriation this money would not be paid to the group as a lump sum. Each month until the fund was exhausted, the state comptroller would mail to Treasurer Booth a check for \$63.75. ⁹⁴

THE REPAIRS, ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE BUILDING AND LOT IN 1936-1937

Unlike his predecessor, Mr. Bruton was deeply interested in the upkeep and general appearance of the building. Accordingly, Bruton, during the spring of 1936, called the board of directors' attention to the run-down condition of the house and lot. The association suggested that Bruton list, and obtain estimates on, needed repairs. Therefore, on June 1, Bruton addressed a letter to the trustees of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association. The custodian stated that the house needed a number of repairs. Among the items which Bruton thought should receive the attention of the board of directors were: the roof; two windows to be cut in the south side of the building; the rear sill (which had been damaged by termites) to be raised and necessary repairs made; and

the floors and woodwork in the downstairs living rooms to be painted. In addition, Bruton wanted a 16' x 32' building constructed in rear of the house, and a fence and gate constructed along the south boundary of the lot. Bruton had obtained and enclosed estimates from two Clarksville firms -- J. W. Marshall and W. K. Stone -- for replacing the roof on the house. Mr. H. H. Bruton of Dover had quoted a price of \$196.00 for building the fence and outbuilding and cutting and installing two windows. 95

Bruton's letter and the estimates were referred to Mr. Scarborough, the chairman of the building committee. Scarborough approved all of Bruton's suggestions except the repair of the sill at the rear of the house. But before giving his sanction, he decided to talk the matter over with Mr. Speight. When informed of the estimates obtained by Mr. Bruton, Mr. Speight stated that they seemed "reasonable". Furthermore, Speight felt that the association should roof the building with "40 lb. tin which is the heaviest that is made". Continuing, Speight noted that the tin roof should be given three coats of paint. Scarborough agreed that this would cost more, but he felt "that we cannot afford to economize on the roof". In a letter dated June 5, Scarborough asked Judge Link to check on the condition of the house. 96

Link replied to Scarborough's letter on the 8th,
pointing out:

Mr. Bruton and I have gone over this matter [the repair of the house] sometime ago together and I felt that this should have been done before now and I am sure it's needed very badly at the present. I went down there not so long ago and went over the house with Mr. Bruton and the roof is absolutely irreparable. The rain just pours through, ruining all of the wall paper.

In closing, Judge Link noted, "I would suggest that we have this done just as soon as possible and I think your suggestions in your letter of the 5th inst., are good ones and I heartily approve same" 97

The building committee, taking cognizance of Mr. Speight's suggestions, asked the two roofing contractors to submit new bids. On June 11 Mr. Stone's bid was accepted and a contract signed. Under the terms of this agreement Stone proposed:

... to furnish labor and material to put on an old style forty pound double locked standing seam tin roof on the Fort Donelson Historical Association Building in Dover, Tennessee, for the sum of ... (\$265.00). The roof to have one coat of Oxide of Iron and Red Lead paint under the bottom and one coat of Oxide of Iron and Red Lead on the top side and one coat of Sherwin-Williams Gray paint on the top side. All work to be first-class and free from leaks.

I further agree to remove the present roof in order that the tin roof may be placed in workmanship manner. ⁹⁸

Mr. Scarborough mailed Bruton a copy of the Stone contract. In addition, he asked the custodian to check on the progress of the work "and see that the proper materials are put on the job" ⁹⁹

While working on the roof, Mr. Stone discovered that the gutters needed to be replaced. Accordingly, on his next visit to Clarksville, Stone brought this matter to the attention of the board of directors. Mr. Scarborough was out of town; therefore, Mrs. Booth had to deal with the situation. After checking with Bruton on the condition of the gutters, she had Stone draw up a contract. ¹⁰⁰ Stone agreed to:

... furnish and put on building in Doyer, Stewart Co. Tenn., a six inch galv/anized gutter on the front of the building, put up 14 ft. of three inch round galv/anized pipe, clean filter and cut off. Put a seven inch galv/anized gutter on the rear, with a four inch galv/anized pipe leading to the ground or tank on the corner next to the river. The gutter to be soldered on both sides and hung so as it will drain thoroughly for the sum of twenty-four and 82/100 dollars. ¹⁰¹

With the roof and gutter taken care of, Bruton decided to see if he could get attended to the other improvements which he had recommended. On June 29, he wrote Treasurer Booth:

Sometime ago, I gave Mr. Scarborough an estimate of a fence and some out houses in connection with this historical house. He was to take up with me when he got back from his vacation ... I wish you would take this up with ... him and call his attention to the fence and out houses, as I understand the little cottage is going to be occupied very soon by a family of small children. In my opinion we need this fence between the two houses to protect our property 102

Mr. Scarborough, having returned from his vacation, replied immediately to Bruton's letter. The custodian's letter had been referred to him by Mrs. Booth. He authorized Bruton to purchase five gallons of paint (three for the living room floor and two for the woodwork). In addition, Scarborough noted he would discuss the outbuilding and fence with the members of the building committee. 103

The committee decided in favor of Bruton's recommendations; and the contract for the fence, the outbuilding, and the cutting of two windows in the south side of the building was awarded to H. N. Bruton. Before erecting the 16' x 32' outbuilding, the contractor rased and removed two old shacks. The new building was box shaped with crisp roof, and a rock and concrete foundation. It had 6" x 8" sills, three doors, and 2" x 8" floor joists. Three gallons of paint purchased from Cherry & McElroy were used to paint the roof of the new outbuilding. To protect the structure against termites, three

gallons of creosote were applied to the floor timbers. There were three rooms in the building -- wash, storage, and open pit toilet. A chicken house (9' x 7') was also constructed about this time. Mr. W. P. Bruton probably built this structure out of scrap lumber salvaged from the two shanties which had been razed.

A 52-inch rabbit and poultry fence was built to separate lots 111 and 112. In erecting this fence, the contractor used the following materials: 16 rods of 52-inch fence, 32 steel line posts, 2 end posts, 2 corner posts, and two gates.

H. H. Bruton also cut two windows in the south face of the historic structure. Each window contained six 10" x 12" panes.

The contract was completed by September 4. On the following day, the association paid Mr. H. H. Bruton \$211.52 for his work. 104

Mr. W. P. Bruton died of a heart attack in October. Thus the association lost "the services of the best custodian that it was able to employ during the 32 years it held title to the building. 105 Following Mr. Bruton's death his wife, Elvira, was retained by the association as custodian.

During the early spring of 1937, the association finally authorized the repair of the rear sill of the house. Mr. Bruton had recommended this project to the board of directors the previous June. Mr. Ed Walter was given the task of raising and

repairing the sill. After employing two men -- Ponie Dix and Frank Ralls -- Walter put them to work. On tearing away the weatherboarding which covered the rear sill, the men discovered the red oak used in the restoration had been "completely ruined" by termites. Accordingly, a new sill (a 10 x 10 of fat pine) was installed. When the old sill was replaced and the rear of the building raised, Walter, in accordance with instructions from the building association, put his crew to work on the cistern. The old cistern was replastered and a new pump installed. This work was completed on April 13 and Walter billed the association for \$120.85. 106

In the fall of 1937, the association authorized Mrs. Bruton to make repairs to the interior of the house and have additional work done on the outbuilding. As her first project, Mrs. Bruton determined to repaper the rooms in which the wallpaper had been ruined by the leaks in the old roof. To carry out this job, \$20.32 worth of wallpaper was purchased from the Askew-Coulter-Owen Drug Company of Clarksville. Evidently Mrs. Bruton and her son, O'Brien, did the papering, because there are no bills for this type of work in the files of the Fort Detelson House Historical Association. 107

When the papering was under way, Mrs. Bruton ordered the painting supplies to be used in painting the porch and roof

of the house. These items were bought in Clarksville in November from the Manning-Orgain Supply Company. A man identified as Sax was employed to paint the roof and porch. In December, 400 feet of 1/2-inch by 3-inch stripping was bought from L. S. Sykes of Tennessee Ridge. These strips were used on the outbuildings. The bills for these materials (paint and lumber) totaled \$52.80. 108

In its 1937 session, the Tennessee legislature, in response to pressure from the association, appropriated \$1,530.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of the building. As before, the comptroller, until such time as the appropriation was exhausted, would continue to send the treasurer of the organization a monthly check for \$63.75. 109

THE FIRST PERIOD OF RETRENCHMENT 1938-1941

During 1938, unlike the two previous years, the association undertook no major projects. Funds, however, were spent for paint, wallpaper and general upkeep. In February, the Manning-Orgain Supply Company was paid \$16.25. (The researcher has been unable to locate this bill, therefore, he is unable to provide a list of materials purchased from the firm on this work.) Two months later, \$13.60 worth of paint and painting supplies were purchased from Manning-Orgain. These items were scheduled to be used to touch up the exterior of the house. 110 On the same

date \$16.57 worth of wallpaper and papering supplies were bought from the Dickson Drug and Music Company of Clarksville by the association. ¹¹¹ Evidently, Mrs. Bruton replaced some of the curtains in the house at this time, because on May 12 she purchased \$5.43 worth of drapery materials from McNeal and Edwards. ¹¹²

Work on the interior of the building and outside fixtures continued through June. Paint and crack filler were purchased from Good-Wilson Drugs. Cherry & McElroy supplied a number of items for use in repairing the windows and gutters. O'Brien Bruton was unable to do all this work, and a carpenter and paper hanger were employed to assist him. In addition to repapering and painting the rooms, the men applied a coat of paint to the north chimney. The labor and materials for this work cost the association \$44.63. ¹¹³

In the fall of 1938 the association disbursed \$15.30 for labor on the building. Of this amount, \$12.00 was spent for painting, \$2.50 for outside work, and \$.80 for carpentry. ¹¹⁴

On October 13, the board of directors of the association held a meeting. In view of the improved financial situation of the organization, it was decided to resume paying the custodian a wage of \$20.00 a month. Furthermore, Mrs. Bruton's salary was made retroactive to the first of the month. ¹¹⁵

Very little work was done to the building in 1939. On May 9, the association paid O'Brien Bruton \$3.75 for trimming the trees in front of the historic structure. ¹¹⁶ During the same month, Mrs. Bruton had two rooms, three ceilings and two halls papered. In addition, she had the ceiling of a third room plastered and patched. The wallpaper and plaster were bought from Good-Wilson Drugs for \$4.95, while the paste was purchased from J. B. Walter. When the plaster was used up sooner than anticipated, a second order was placed with Cherry & McKelroy. Jim Biggs and son did the papering, for which they were paid \$9.85. ¹¹⁷

The 1939 session of the Tennessee legislature enacted a bill again appropriating \$1,530.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of the Dover Tavern during the next two years. The comptroller would continue to send the treasurer of the association a check for \$63.75 each month until the appropriation had been disbursed. ¹¹⁸

Except for the custodian's salary, the house was of slight expense to the association in 1940. On March 2, Dover was visited by a severe hail storm. Altogether, eight window panes were broken in the building. It cost the association \$5.63 to have Cherry & McKelroy replace the glass. The Hartford Fire

Insurance Company, who carried a policy on the house, paid the association \$2.64 for the damage incurred. 119

In May, Mrs. Bruton had some unspecified work and painting done to the building. These items cost the association \$10.40. In addition, Mrs. Bruton hired Earl Biggs to paint the gutters. Biggs charged the association \$1.75 for the work. 120

On July 20 Mrs. Bruton's son, O'Brien, was stricken with a ruptured appendix and died. Being informed of O'Brien's death, Mr. Scarborough decided to contact the other members of the board and see if they would be willing to raise Mrs. Bruton's salary. 121 In a letter to Judge Link dated July 23,

Scarborough observed:

You, I am sure, are familiar with the facts and perhaps in better position to know what our obligation is. I would think that the loss of her son, O'Brien, will take away from ... Mrs. Bruton some revenue. It is my personal opinion that Mrs. Bruton is a very fine woman and she and her family have done an excellent job with the House.

She is now being paid only \$20.00 per month. What is your opinion in raising this amount to \$30.00, which I am sure will help to some extent in her living expenses? 122

Judge Link replied to Scarborough's letter immediately.

The judge thought Mrs. Bruton should have the raise, because she "has been put to a lot of expense and trouble". 123 Scarborough

then advised Mrs. Runyon, who was vacationing in Michigan, of his proposal. 124 Following Mrs. Runyon's return, she called a meeting of the board of directors. At the August gathering, it was agreed to increase Mrs. Bruton's salary to \$30.00 per month. The raise was made retroactive to July 1, 1940. 125

1941 -- A YEAR OF LARGE SCALE REPAIRS TO THE HOTEL

On January 23, 1941, the directors of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association held a meeting in the Dover Inn. At this gathering, the board elected S. Clinton Lewis and Ed Walter as directors to replace deceased members. 126 The board also decided "to increase the insurance on the building from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00, and the insurance on the relics from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00" 127 Furthermore, it was decided to place signs at strategic points in the area to direct tourists to the historic house. 128 Before adjourning, the directors approved a number of projects looking to the upkeep of the building. The board voted in favor of the:

... removal of rotting timbers under the front porch, and replacement with creosoted timbers; painting ceilings and floors of both porches, and the outside of the large outbuilding; roof of museum building to be painted and roof of the large outbuilding to be cleaned and painted; roof of museum to be repaired and leak at chimney stopped; ends of museum to be given two coats of paint, and front and back to be painted, if necessary;

the floor in the "rock room" to be repaired; outside door to "prisoner's room" to be weather stripped to keep out rain; new ceiling paper and border to be put on in Mrs. Bruton's living room; new white glass curtains to be put at all windows, to be made by Mrs. Bruton, for which she would be paid; the area of poor soil between the walk and the iron fence to be dug up and replaced by several loads of good dirt, to be graded; and a retaining wall of brick or rock to be placed about the trees and the gate. 129

Preparatory to beginning the scheduled work on the house, the association purchased 1,200 select red line bricks from W. T. Hardison and Company of Nashville, for \$17.40, and ten gallons of white paint from the J. B. Walter Company of Dover, for \$30.00. 130 On April 20 Ed Walter, who again assumed charge of the work on the house, hired a two man crew (Peggie Dix and Morris Cherry). 131 Initially, the men were put to work repairing and painting the exterior of the house. A new coat of paint was applied to the exterior walls and roof of the structure and the outbuildings. Next, the screens and gutters were repaired. 132

In June, Walter hired three additional men (Hereshell Saxton, and Evans and Charles Gentry). These three would build the brick walks which the association planned to place in front of and on the south side of the building. 133 While the new employees worked on the walks, Dix and Cherry repaired the porch. The lumber for the porch and concrete forms was purchased from

L. C. Sykes of Tennessee Ridge. ¹³⁴ Additional materials used in constructing the brick walks were purchased from the J. B. Walter Company and the Joe Martin Company. The former firm sold the association gravel and sand; the latter supplied cement. ¹³⁵ By the evening of June 23 the men had repaired the porch and built brick walks inside the yard. The scheduled work completed, Mr. alter discharged his crew, ¹³⁶

Considerable money was also spent, at this time, by the association on the interior of the building and the fixtures for the museum. The firm of McNeal and Edwards was paid \$70.29 for material for making white glass curtains. ¹³⁷ Mrs. Bruton received \$17.00 for converting the goods into curtains for the house. ¹³⁸ The Dickson-Sader Company of Clarksville sold the association \$9.25 worth of wallpaper for use in papering the living room. ¹³⁹ It cost the organization \$5.90 to get the living room papered. ¹⁴⁰ Several large display cases for use in the museum were bought from the J. H. Weeks Company for \$175.00. Later in the year, two secondhand show cases were obtained from John Bruton for \$35.00. ¹⁴¹ In addition, the association purchased a new fire extinguisher from Montgomery Ward for \$29.52. ¹⁴² In September, shades were acquired for the house from Good-Wilson Drugs. The price for the shades was \$23.75. ¹⁴³

On November 2, a metal tablet was placed in the basement

of the inn. This plaque incorrectly identified the hotel as the location of the historic council of war where the Confederates decided to surrender Fort Donelson. The plaque was donated by the Burch family of Nashville. ¹⁴⁴ Before the dedicatory ceremony, the association purchased a large silk Confederate flag from Good-Wilson Drugs for \$27.00. ¹⁴⁵ Furthermore, Mrs. Bruton, in order to spruce up the house and yards, purchased several springs for the doors and windows and had the ditch in front of the building cleaned out. ¹⁴⁶ It cost the association \$2.00 to have Hugh Lindsay install the Burch tablet. ¹⁴⁷

In order to reduce the custodian's light bill, the association in October secured Mrs. Bruton a membership in the TVA. ¹⁴⁸

The Tennessee General Assembly in its 1941 session again appropriated \$1,530.00 for the upkeep and maintenance of the Dover Hotel. As heretofore, the comptroller would continue to send the treasurer of the association a monthly warrant for \$63.75 until such time as the appropriation was exhausted. ¹⁴⁹

1942 TO 1944 -- THE SECOND PERIOD OF RETIREMENT

No projects were undertaken by the association in 1942. Accordingly, the only expenses incurred during the year were for the day to day upkeep of the house. In March, Mrs. Bruton had

three lights installed in one of the basement rooms. The parts and labor for this job came to \$3.44.¹⁵⁰ During May, Mrs. Bruton "had the boards put in under the windows and given two coats of paint". The total cost of this work was \$11.21.¹⁵¹ In September, the bottom dropped out of the cistern filter. Cherry & McElroy charged the association \$10.50 for a new filter. At the same time, Mrs. Bruton had George Wall clean out the gutters of the building. This took care of all the work done to the building in 1942.

In the meantime, the association had run afoul of the Federal government. The 77th Congress in 1941 had passed a new Revenue Act. Under the provisions of the new enactment, the association was required to pay a tax of \$.01 on each \$.10 fee "or fraction of the amount paid for admission except in the case of children under twelve years of age where the admission is less than 10¢ no tax accrues." It was July before the association learned that the Federal government expected it to pay a tax on the admission fees collected since October 1, 1941.¹⁵³ When advised of this, Mr. Scarborough addressed a letter to W. C. Johnson, a deputy collector for the Internal Revenue Service. In his communication, Scarborough noted:

Mrs. Bruton, custodian, gives her time and attention to the organization at a salary which will be paid from the appropriation received from the State of Tennessee. In addition to this compensation, she receives

the admissions which will not amount to more than \$150.00 per year. The amount involved in admission taxes would be very small, however, we would like to avoid the trouble and details of collecting this tax unless you write us that we are liable for same. 154

Replying to Scarborough on August 10, Johnson pointed out, "This ... [the Fort Donelson House Historical Association] would not be exempt and is required to make monthly reports of all admissions. Other like associations are now reporting on this admission tax and have been for a period of months." 155

Following the receipt of Johnson's letter, Scarborough contacted Mrs. Bruton. He informed her "that it will be necessary for ... [the association] to issue tickets of admission and pay 3¢ on each adult admission each month". Continuing, Scarborough observed that he and Mrs. Ruyon thought "it would be better not to raise the price of admission but to have the ticket read 'Admission 22¢, tax 3¢ - Total 25¢'". Since there was "no tax on children under twelve years of age where the admission is less than 10¢", Scarborough believed it would be best to reduce their fee to 9¢, "thereby doing away with the inconveniences of keeping the record and paying the tax on children". 156

Even before the Warrent County Times was able to print tickets for the association, Mrs. Bruton had mailed the collector of Internal Revenue a check for \$1.35. This represented the tax

on the admission fees collected during the month of July. 157 A thorough examination of the association's files indicates that the government never collected the taxes on the admissions for the period October 1941 through June 1942.

The association spent practically nothing on the house in 1943. At the end of July, Mrs. Bruton hired Henry Wofford to make some needed repairs to the roof of the building. Cherry & McElroy sold the association the roofing and nails needed for installing the porch lights and fixtures. At the same time, Mrs. Bruton paid Richard Winn \$2.50 to do some painting around the house. 159

The 1943 session of the Tennessee General Assembly renewed, under the usual conditions, the association's biennial appropriation.

1944 -- SEVERAL OF THE ROOMS GET A NEW FLOOR

During 1944, the association spent \$194.89 for the upkeep of the building. In February, 555 square feet of lumber and one gallon of paste were bought from the Calloway County Lumber Company of Murray, Kentucky. This lumber was earmarked for re-flooring several of the rooms. 160 Carpenters -- Cleve Whaley and Henry Wofford -- were employed and given the task of laying the new floors. Mr. Whaley charged the association \$50.30 for the job (\$2.60 for baseboard, \$.70 for a telephone call in

order to obtain a sander, \$7.00 for trucking the lumber from Murray, and \$40.00 for labor). 161

On February 1, the association purchased enough wallpaper to paper three rooms and two quarts of enamel from the Dickson-Sadler Drug Company. The price was \$11.08. William Saxton was hired to paper the rooms and undertake some incidental carpenter work. 162 Cherry & McKelroy sold the association the hardware and building materials needed to complete the flooring and papering projects. 163

Before the month of March had drawn to a close, the association had disbursed an additional \$21.13. Dickson-Sadler was paid \$3.50 for framing a picture for the inn; Good-Wilson Drugs was given \$17.63 for certain undesignated types of goods. 164

In July, the association purchased eight gallons of denatured alcohol from the Burton Drug Company. The researcher has been unable to ascertain what use was made of the alcohol. 165

1945 TO 1948 — THE THIRD PERIOD OF RETIREMENT

Disbursements by the association for the upkeep of the house were held to a minimum in 1945. On July 5, Treasurer Booth mailed a check to Cherry & McKelroy for \$4.70. The researcher has been unable to discover what this purchase represented. 166 During the summer, water leaked into the basement. As a result of the

war, Mrs. Bruton was unable to get anybody to attend to this matter until October. At that time, she secured the services of Whaley and Wofford. To stop the leak, the men were forced to fix the gutters and pour some concrete. The cement and sand (one sack of the former and four of the latter) for this job were supplied by the Joe Martin Company. Whaley and Wofford charged the association \$10.00 for their services. 167

Mrs. Bruton, during the fall of 1945, placed fresh paper in the museum show cases. The paper used for this purpose cost the association \$5.00. 168

In May, the Trustees of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association held a meeting. At this gathering, the trustees "voted unanimously to increase [the custodian's] salary \$20.00 per month, retroactive [to] January 1, 1945." Accordingly, on May 5, Treasurer Booth mailed Mrs. Bruton a check for \$100.00, the total of her retroactive pay. 169

Again, as in each session since 1933, the Tennessee General Assembly renewed its biennial appropriation for the upkeep and maintenance of the Fort Donelson House. The Treasurer of the association would continue to receive a warrant each month from the comptroller for \$63.75. 170

The association spent \$90.93 for the upkeep on the

building and lot in 1946. During the spring, the water in the Cumberland had been very high. Consequently, a large amount of debris was deposited around the house when the river fell. Mrs. Bruton, therefore, had to hire a man to clean up the lot and cut the weeds. This work cost the association \$20.00. Informing Treasurer Booth of this, Mrs. Bruton's daughter-in-law (Louise Bruton McGee) also commented, "The porches are in a bad state need painting so bad. I can't get anyone to do it, so this woman [a lady who had been helping with the spring house cleaning] and I will paint them when we get around to it." 171

When Mrs. Booth learned that the porches needed to be repainted, she had the Orgain Building Supply Company of Clarksville send Mrs. Bruton three gallons of paint and one brush. 172 In July the association sent Mrs. Bruton two checks for the upkeep of the building. The first of these was for \$10.28. This check took care of several items purchased from McElroy & Brigham, and to pay a man for repairing the pump and fixing the gutters. 173 The second was for \$16.20. This money was used to pay for having the office draperies cleaned, fixing the pipe and gutters, painting the porches, and \$2.20 worth of paint and painting supplies bought from McElroy & Brigham. 174

On November 27, the association sent Mrs. Bruton a check for \$9.75. Nine dollars of this sum was paid to Mr. Popper

for work on the flue and outbuildings, and painting on the museum. The other 75% was disbursed to McElroy & Brigham for the glass used on a sign and a flue stop. 175

In 1947, the association disbursed no funds for the upkeep of the museum. The 1947 session of the Tennessee legislature renewed, under the usual conditions, its biennial appropriation for the upkeep and maintenance of the building.

1948 AND 1949 -- YEARS OF LARGE SCALE DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE UPKEEP OF THE BUILDING

During 1948, the association spent \$1,208.78 for the upkeep of the building. At first, the work was carried out piecemeal. Mrs. Bruton, having secured the trustees' approval, decided to have four of the rooms used as the custodian's quarters "done over". Woodrow Dill of Dover sold Mrs. Bruton the paints and painting supplies for this project. The cost of the items used to repaint the four rooms came to \$26.60. 176 Will R. Brigham was paid \$26.08 for the materials used in papering and finishing the four rooms. 177 Mrs. Falks, who assisted Mrs. McOee in hanging the paper, was paid \$44.00 for her labor. Work on the four rooms was completed on June 8. 178

The board of directors held a meeting in June at Dover. Inspecting the museum, the group decided to inaugurate a crash program to improve the appearance of the building. The trustees

decided to have "a new floor [laid] in the downstairs dining room, the house painted inside and out, and papered, the iron fence painted, the porch floor and column bases repaired, and new copper screens made for all the windows." Before adjourning, the board authorized Mr. Lewis to employ the necessary personnel for undertaking such a project. 179

On June 21, Lewis addressed a letter to Mr. Scarborough, the chairman of the building commission, informing him that he had "employed Wade Cherry and his crew of four other carpenters and painters to do the repair work on the museum here, at the wage rate of 85 cents per hour." Continuing, Lewis noted that Cherry had told him "the amount of work to be done was so indefinite that it would be difficult to make a contract price". Next, Lewis advised Scarborough that Cherry's team were "getting their ladders together today [the 21st] and arranging for the paint and will begin work tomorrow". In closing, Lewis observed, "There is such a limited variety of wall paper in stock at Dover that we [he and Judge Link] agreed the paper should be purchased at Clarksville." 180

Scarborough replied to Lewis' letter on the following day. Besides commenting that he and Mrs. Runyon "heartily approve the manner in which you are handling the situation", Scarborough

discussed the wallpaper situation. He stated it was Mrs. Runyon's suggestion "that ... [Wade] have one of the men get the measurements of the rooms" With this information in her possession, Mrs. Runyon would then check the wallpaper stocked by the Clarksville stores. 181

It took Cherry's crew of painters and carpenters six weeks to complete the scheduled work on the building. During the first two weeks, a four man crew was employed. Cherry reduced his crew by one at the beginning of the third week; during the last two weeks, only two men worked on the house. The association paid Wade Cherry \$519.35 for the work which he and his crew did on the building. 182

Cherry's men painted the house (both the exterior and interior), except the four rooms that had been redone in June, and the outbuildings. Paints, brushes, and painting supplies were sold to the association by Woodrow Dill. While they were painting the exterior of the museum, Cherry's crew replaced and repaired the gutters. Supplies for this work were also obtained from Woodrow Dill. Altogether, the association bought \$156.56 worth of materials from Woodrow Dill. 183

The door and window screens were removed and repaired. The materials for this work were purchased from W. R. Brigham Hardware and cost \$11.61. 184 Breaks and cracks in the brick

walks, the foundation, and the chimneys were filled in. The Joe Martin Company furnished the cement, while the sand and gravel for this work were bought from Jimmie Ervin. In addition to laying a new floor in the downstairs dining room, the carpenters removed boards and timbers that had deteriorated. The Earhart Service Station supplied the poplar lumber used to repair the woodwork in the building. 185

In the meantime, Mrs. Ruyon had contracted for the wallpaper and supplies necessary to paper all the rooms in the two upper stories, except the four rooms that had been redone in June. E. H. Burton, of Clarksville, sold the association \$188.01 worth of wallpaper and supplies. 186 A professional paperhanger, E. O. Hawks, was hired to do the work. Hawks charged the organization \$144.60 for papering the house. 187

A roll of 28-inch copper wire was acquired from the Orgain Building Supply Company for \$30.30. The researcher has been unable to determine what use was made of this wire. 188

As soon as Cherry's men had finished working on the house, Mrs. Louise Fisher (Mrs. Elvira Bruton's daughter-in-law had married George Fisher on July 4) hired a woman and a boy to "clean up around the place". The boy cut the weeds and policed the grounds, the woman washed the windows and display cases and thoroughly cleaned the interior of the building. The bill for

this labor came to \$24.00. When the work was completed, Mrs. Fisher informed Mrs. Booth, "The place sure looks much better, in fact lovely". 189

In March, the board of directors reached the conclusion that, in case of a fire, it would be necessary to furnish the insurance company an inventory of the contents of the building. Accordingly, on March 12, a letter was addressed to Mrs. Bruton asking her to forward to the directors, at her earliest convenience, an accession book listing a description of, and the owner of, the various specimens on display in the museum. 190

When a month passed and no information was received concerning the accession book, Mrs. Booth, on April 16, sent a note to Mrs. Bruton reminding her of the directors' request. 191

Mrs. Bruton's daughter-in-law, Louise McGee, replied to Mrs. Booth's letter on the 22d. After advising Mrs. Booth that there was no accession book, she noted, "I'm taking each room itemizing each." For example, Mrs. McGee wanted to know if, "on the rock & mineral collection, a correct count of pieces such as ... (1 rock collection consisting of 63 pieces) would be sufficient." Furthermore, she continued, the donor's name and whether the specimen was a loan or a gift would be indicated on a card. 192 The plan advanced by Mrs. McGee for cataloguing the collection satisfied the directors. Mrs. Runyon, however, had one

further suggestion. She thought "that perhaps it would be a good plan to have all the relics of the same nature together" 193
Thus, the association's plan to have an accessions book for the museum ended in frustration and failure.

On October 30, 1948, about three months after the work on the house had been completed, Mrs. Bruton tendered her resignation as custodian of the "Fort Donelson House". In her letter of resignation, Mrs. Bruton recommended Mr. and Mrs. George Griggs for the position. Mrs. Bruton sought to pressure the association into employing the couple of her choice by promising to leave her personal relics in the "museum in case Mr. and Mrs. Griggs are selected to take care of same" 194

Rumors of Mrs. Bruton's impending resignation had been common knowledge for several days before she posted her letter to Mrs. Ruryon. Evidently, the position of custodian was in considerable demand, because in addition to the Griggses, the association received inquiries from: Meses. Opal Sills, George Damron, J. H. Scarborough, and Charles Tubbs. 195 After acknowledging these applications, Mrs. Ruryon addressed letters to Judge Link, Ed Walter, and Mr. Lewis. She asked these three gentlemen to designate a date when they would be able to meet with the members of the board who resided in Clarksville. When the trustees assembled in Dover on November 16, they voted to employ

Mrs. Griggs as custodian. Mrs. Bruton had vacated on the first of the month, therefore, the Griggses were able to move into the building immediately. 196

At the November meeting, Mrs. Runyon informed her associates of the contents of a letter from the President of the Fort Donelson Chapter of the UDC, Mrs. Charles Cherry. Mrs. Cherry had inquired into possibilities of the UDC's using one of the rooms in the historic house for their permanent meeting place. At the assembly of the board of directors held on November 16, the UDC's request was unanimously approved. In a letter informing President Cherry of the association's decision, Mrs. Runyon noted, "We would like to have you discuss with Mrs. George Gibbs, the newly appointed caretaker, the question of which room would be best for your purpose." Continuing, Mrs. Runyon pointed out that the expense, if any, of heating the room in cold weather would have to be borne by the UDC. The room was to be left in order after the meetings, "since to do otherwise would place an additional and unnecessary burden on the caretaker." 197

The UDC agreed to accept the enumerated stipulations. Approaching Mrs. Griggs, President Cherry was informed that her organization was to have the use of the southeast corner room of the second floor. Having acquired the use of the room, the ladies

of the UDC chapter decided to furnish the room with period furniture. Accordingly, the group addressed an appeal to the residents of Stewart County to see if they could provide any of the needed furnishings. 198

Moving into the house, Mrs. Griggs hired, with the approval of the association, Mr. W. A. Lockwood to cut a new door into "the museum apartment". It took Lockwood 15 hours to complete this task. The materials used by the carpenter were purchased from Frighan's Hardware for \$14.35. 199

In 1949 the association again made large scale disbursements for the upkeep of the "Fort Donelson House". A total of \$1,460.65 was spent on the museum and its furnishings during the year. A large part of the money, however, went toward buying furnishings for the building. On April 25, Mrs. Runyon bought \$955.00 worth of antique furniture from Mrs. Stafford Doyle of Gallatin. It cost the association \$25.00 to get the furniture hauled from Gallatin to Clarksville. A painter had been employed to repaint several of the rooms in the building. Therefore, the furniture was temporarily stored at Mrs. Runyon's home. While waiting to forward the furniture to Dover, Mrs. Runyon employed the St. John cabinet Shop to repair several of the pieces. On July 6 the association hired Fred Biggs to haul the furniture to Dover. 200

Curtain materials costing \$156.90 were purchased from the McNeal and Edwards Company in April and June. 201 Mrs. Viola Cato and Charles Parker converted the material into twenty-one pairs of window curtains and four door curtains. 202

A painter, Claude Sexton, was hired at the rate of \$1.00 per hour. Sexton commenced work on April 26. His task was to paint a number of the rooms. It took Sexton 70 hours to complete the job. The paint and supplies for this project were purchased from the Brigham Hardware and Woodrow Mill. 203 At the same time, the services of Bernice Cherry were acquired. Cherry repaired the grate and hearth in one of the upstairs rooms. 204

In December, John and David Marshall rebuilt and repaired one of the fireplaces. This work cost the association \$24.00. 205

Meanwhile, the association authorized Mr. Lewis to draw up a contract with Mrs. Griggs. According to the terms of this agreement, the custodian would have "for her own use the four southernmost rooms on the first floor". Mrs. Griggs' salary was to continue to be \$50.00 per month. Henceforth, however, the custodian would not retain the entire admission fee. In the future, she would refund to the association "fifty per cent (50%) of the income from paid admissions to said museum; such 50% to be calculated only after accrued public privilege taxes shall have

first been deducted from said income." Furthermore, the custodian would continue to furnish her own lights, fuel and telephone. 206

In May the association, in order to lower the insurance rates on the property, placed two additional fire extinguishers in the building. These soda and acid extinguishers were acquired from W. J. McLevain for \$7.00. 207

The 1949 session of the Tennessee General Assembly renewed, under the usual conditions, the association's biennial appropriation for the upkeep of the museum and its maintenance. In addition to the state funds, the association, for the first time since the early 1930's, received one-half the income from admissions to the museum. The total amount derived from this source, however, totaled only \$46.90. 208

1950 TO 1953 -- THE FOURTH PERIOD OF RETRENCHMENT

During 1950, the association disbursed \$110.19 for the upkeep of the historic house. In June, Will Sexton was employed and given the task of touching up the interior of the building. Using wallpaper, Kentone and paints purchased from Montgomery-Ward, Woodrow Dill, J. B. Walter, and Trighan Hardware, Sexton redecorated several of the rooms. At the same time, Sexton repaired several of the window and door screens. The association paid Sexton \$30.00 for this work; the materials used by the painter ate up the rest of this amount. 209

The association spent next to nothing for upkeep on the Dover Hotel in 1951. In June, Evans Gentry spent one day painting the porch. The bill for the paint and labor for this job totaled \$12.95. In August, Mrs. Griggs purchased a new sash for \$3.00 from the Erigham Hardware. Thus, the total money spent for the upkeep of the house in 1951 amounted to \$15.95. 210

In 1951 the association filed for and obtained a charter of incorporation. The charter was granted under the authority of Tennessee Code section 4146, subsection 4, for "the support of a historical society" or "the organization and support of a battle field association". 211

Again, as in the past, the 1951 session of the Tennessee General Assembly renewed, under the usual conditions, the biennial appropriation for the upkeep and maintenance of the "Fort Donelson House". 212

The association continued to adhere to its retrenchment policy through 1952. During the year only one small disbursement -- \$3.00 for cleaning supplies -- was made for the upkeep of the building. 213 A number of years after the suggestion had been initially advanced, the association finally contracted for signs to advertise the historic building. These signs were purchased from the Columbia Neon Company of Clarksville for \$34.17. 214

Mrs. Griggs submitted her resignation as custodian as

on May 13. Mrs. Sylvia Sills, learning of the impending resignation, had circulated a petition requesting that she be employed as caretaker. At the meeting which convened on May 13, the trustees voted to employ Mrs. Sills. 215

THE DOVER HOTEL GETS CITY WATER

As was the case whenever a new custodian was employed, the association's disbursements for the upkeep of the building zoomed in 1953. In March, Mrs. Sills purchased \$7.75 worth of wallpaper and paint from the Brigham Hardware. These items were used to paper and paint the kitchen. At the same time, Mrs. Sills bought \$3.43 worth of cleaning supplies from Woodrow Mill. She used the wax and polish on the floors and furniture. 216 Meanwhile, Mrs. Ruryon had been informed that Dover was going to install a city water system. Accordingly, she authorized Mrs. Sills to put a sink in the kitchen of the museum. In a letter informing Mrs. Sills of this, Mrs. Booth noted, "She [Mrs. Ruryon] said for you to get an estimate on what it [the sink] will cost installed, one with a drain that will be satisfactory when city water is available." 217 Consulting with the manager of the Brigham Hardware, Mrs. Sills learned that the sink and installation fee would total about \$45.00. 218 Advised of the estimate obtained by Mrs. Sills, the association authorized her to buy the sink

from the Brigham Hardware. 219

Therefore, Mrs. Sills on April 23 ordered the sink and its attachments from Brigham Hardware. Evidently, Brigham Hardware had underestimated the cost, because the bill for the sink and its installation totaled \$60.21. 220

In September the association purchased "a handsome large antique secretary" from Sherman T. Quin of Clarksville. This piece of furniture cost the association \$188.70. The Marvin Hayes Lines charged the organization \$22.00 for moving the secretary from Clarksville to Dover. 221

During the fall the association had the fire extinguishers taken to Clarksville and recharged. The servicing and drayage fee came to \$16.58. 222

At its 1953 session the Tennessee General Assembly renewed the biennial appropriation for the upkeep and maintenance of the "Fort Donelson House". On July 9 Mrs. Booth learned that the association's application for exemption from paying a tax on admissions to a historical site had been approved by the Collector of Internal Revenue. Henceforth, the association would not have to pay the Federal tax of \$.01 on each \$.10 admission fee collected. 223

Expenditures for the upkeep of the tavern skyrocketed to \$1,389.00 in 1954. In January water was piped into the

building. The Brigham Hardware charged \$200.00 for the plumbing, the fixtures, and the labor. This included a 30-gallon capacity electric hot water heater which delighted Mrs. Sills. 224

Following the installation of the municipally owned water system the custodian ceased using the cistern.

In April the association contracted with W. E. Sexton to paper several of the rooms. Sexton purchased the wallpaper and border from Decorators Wall Paper Company of Louisville for \$23.16. He charged the association \$20.00 for hanging the paper. 225

At a meeting held in October, the board of Trustees determined to make a large outlay for the upkeep of the building. This time the board decided to contract the work. Mr. G. T. Scurlock of the Dover Electric Company was contacted and asked to submit estimates on the general repair of the house and the addition of a bath room. The bath room would be located in the small room that adjoined the office behind the stairs. After surveying the building, Mr. Scurlock informed Mrs. Ruyon that he would repair the outside of the building, reinforce the floor of the room over the office (which had been judged unsafe for groups), level the floor of the small room designated as the bath room, and install the bath room fixtures for \$745.00. Since the repairs to the overhead floor made it necessary to repaper the office,

Scurlock asked Will Sexton to quote a price for papering the office and bath room. The paperhanger stated that for \$27.50 he would "furnish the felt & ceiling paper for both rooms and to paper the walls with paper you select and send him. Above price includes paste and labor". Continuing, Scurlock noted that Mr. N. R. Murphy had quoted a price of \$325.00 for applying two coats of oil and lead paint to the outside of the building, including the porch. 226

On October 14, Mrs. Runyon replied to Scurlock's letter. After thanking Scurlock for his co-operation, Mrs. Runyon noted that the building commission would "be glad for Mr. Sexton and Mr. Murphy to do the painting and papering as specified". Next, Mrs. Runyon observed:

Mr. Speight and the Board members are also desirous of putting in the bathroom, but we feel that we will have to leave off the tub temporarily, as we are running very close to the limit of our funds in hand. We would like the floor levelled as you and Mr. Speight indicated would be necessary, the washbowl and toilet installed, and the connections for the tub put in.

Mrs. Runyon then restated the estimates that Scurlock had submitted. "Repairs on outside of the building, and re-enforcing two floors -- \$350.00; Levelling floor for bathroom installations -- \$50.00; Plumbing, septic tank, lavatory, commode, connections for tub (everything but the tub) -- \$345.00." 227

At the same time, Mrs. Runyon addressed letters to

Murphy and Sexton accepting, in the association's name, their bids. 228

The three contractors commenced work immediately. In accordance with the agreement with Sexton, the association purchased \$56.49 worth of wallpaper from B. M. Burton of Clarksville. 229 The paperhanger and painter had fulfilled their contracts by the beginning of the third week in November and were paid off. 230 As expected, however, it took the Dover Electric Company another month to complete its work. On December 21, Mr. Scurlock informed Mrs. Ruryon that his company had finished its scheduled work. Besides advising Mrs. Ruryon that the bill for the work came to \$736.00, Scurlock stated that he "would appreciate an inspection of the work & check for same before the first of the year if possible." 231 The work being pronounced satisfactory, Treasurer Booth mailed the Dover Electric Company a check for \$736.00.

THE FINAL PERIOD OF RETRENCHMENT

During 1955 expenses for the upkeep of the building fell to practically nothing. Total disbursements for this item for the entire year totaled \$12.56. Of this figure, \$9.24 was paid to Woodrow Dill for cleaning materials. 232 Miscellaneous articles purchased from the Brigham Hardware cost the association \$3.32. 233

When the 79th session of the Tennessee General Assembly convened in January 1955, the association sought to have their biennial appropriation increased. Accordingly, Mrs. Booth addressed a letter to Senator S. C. Dunbar on this subject. ²³⁴ But the appeal apparently fell on deaf ears, because when the General Assembly acted, it merely renewed the annual appropriation for the upkeep and maintenance of the "Fort Donelson House". ²³⁵

During 1956 the association again held its expenses for the upkeep of the building to a minimum. In June the Dover Electric Company was paid \$4.85 for repairing the water system. ²³⁶ Then in December, the Brigham Hardware received \$11.58 for the parts and labor necessary to fix the element in the electric water heater. ²³⁷ Woodrow Bill sold the association \$11.96 worth of cleaning supplies. ²³⁸ In addition, a toilet set was purchased from Mrs. Thad Northington by the organization for \$40.00. ²³⁹

The only disbursements for the upkeep of the building in 1957 were made to the Brigham Hardware. In January the element and thermostat in the electric hot water heater had to be replaced. The bill for the parts and their installation, along with the rent of a gas torch, for thawing out the water pipes, came to \$20.76. ²⁴⁰ During the following month (February) the Brigham Hardware extended the electrical services in the building. The labor and parts for this job totaled \$14.90. ²⁴¹

The 1957 session of the Tennessee General Assembly again included the Dover Hotel in its "General Appropriation Bill". As before, the biennial grant for the upkeep and maintenance of the house amounted to \$1,500.00. In addition, the 80th Legislature passed a Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill. In response to the request of the lawmakers from Montgomery and Stewart Counties, the "Fort Donelson House" was earmarked to receive \$500.00 from this special appropriation. When the Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill reached Governor Frank G. Clement's desk, he vetoed the item referring to the Dover Hotel along with most of the others pertaining to historic monuments. In lieu of individual appropriations for these projects, Governor Clement recommended and the general assembly approved a \$65,000.00 addition to the Historical Commission for the acquisition and the upkeep of these monuments. 242

When Mrs. Runyon learned that Governor Clement had vetoed the item in the Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill for assistance to the "Fort Donelson House", she addressed a letter to the governor. Furthermore, for some unexplained reason, the association believed the 79th General Assembly had increased its biennial appropriation. Mrs. Runyon, in bringing this matter to the governor's attention, observed, "The building needs some

carpenter work, some paint, chairs upholstered, etc. At the present time it is not the credit to the state that it should be." 243

Governor Clement referred Mrs. Runyon's letter to the Director of the Budget, Edward J. Boling. The director of the budget informed Mrs. Runyon that he had "searched both the General Appropriations Bill, 1955 and the Miscellaneous Appropriation Bill without finding that the annual \$765.00 appropriation for the Fort Donelson memorial was increased". 244 Boling then informed Mrs. Runyon of the \$65,000.00 addition to the Historical Commission's funds for the acquisition and the upkeep of these monuments. He then suggested that Mrs. Runyon get in touch with Dr. Dan Robinson, the chairman of the Historical Commission. Apparently, however, the association did not pursue the matter farther. 245

Denied relief by the state and confronted with a continuing shrinking balance in the bank, the association, during 1958, continued to hold the line on disbursements for the upkeep of the building. In February, there was a hard freeze and the water system in the building was damaged. The Dover Electric Company charged \$24.25 for the labor and parts needed to restore service. 246 Two months later, the association paid \$9.22 for a new tap for the sink. 247 Before the summer was over, the

organization had to invest \$7.37 on the commode. ²⁴⁸ During the year Woodrow Hill sold the association cleaning supplies to the value of \$7.44. ²⁴⁹ A record book for the use of the visitors was acquired during the year from the Clarksville Leaf Chronicle for \$6.60. ²⁵⁰

According to the incomplete records on file, the only disbursement made for the upkeep of the building in 1959 was \$7.37 to the Brigham Hardware. ²⁵¹ On September 1, Mrs. Sills, when advised that the "Fort Donelson House" was going to be turned over to the Federal government, vacated the building. Superintendent Pratt then had the electrical and water services suspended and closed the structure to the public.

PART I

THE ORGANIZATION OF STEWART COUNTY AND THE EARLY HISTORY OF DEVER,
TENNESSEE

Notes

- 1 Acts Passed at the First Session of the Fifth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee (Nashville, 1803), 117.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 History of Tennessee (Nashville, 1886), 904, 913.
- 5 Ibid., 904.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid., 905.
- 8 Ibid., 914.
- 9 Deed Book - Stewart County, Tennessee, Vol. III, 252. (Cited hereafter as Deed Book.)
- 10 Deed Book, Vol. V, 401.
- 11 Deed Book, Vol. IX, 173. This transaction is recorded as of February 16, 1831.
- 12 Deed Book, Vol. XIII, 620. Bayliss' agreement with Kercheval was signed and recorded in the Deed Book on October 28, 1840.
- 13 Deed Book, Vol. XIV, 456.
- 14 Deed Book, Vol. XV, 449.
- 15 Deed Book, Vol. XVI, 259.

- 16 Deed Book, Vol. XVI, 390.
- 17 Deed Book, Vol. XVII, 153.
- 18 Deed Book, Vol. XVIII, 427.
- 19 Deed Book, Vol. XIX, 108. Mockabee was also spelled Mockbee.
- 20 Deed Book, Vol. XXI, 119.
- 21 Stewart County Record of Settlements, Bonds, etc., 1866-1869, pp. 32-33. R. T. Daniel died on September 16, 1859.
- 22 Ira Adkins, Personal Interview, December 8, 1959: The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. XXIII, pt. I, 36. (Cited hereafter as Q. R.)
- 23 Stewart County Record of Settlements, Bonds, etc., 1866-1869, pp. 32-33.
- 24 Deed Book, Vol. XXIII, 54.
- 25 Ibid., 234.
- 26 The Dover Record, March 11, 1870.
- 27 Deed Book, Vol. XXIII, 466.
- 28 The Weekly Record, April 27, 1870.
- 29 Ibid. The advertisements announcing the Floyds were ready for business read:

Dentist

Dr. J. A. Floyd, having located in our town. he would respectfully inform the

citizens of Dover, and vicinity, that he will be pleased to have those wishing his services to call at the Dover Hotel.

Millinery & Dress-Making

Mrs. Floyd, would respectfully inform the citizens of Dover and vicinity that she will carry on the millinery & dress making business at the Dover Hotel, and would be pleased to be called on that place. She has just received a fine lot of millinery goods.

- 30 Deed Book, Vol. XXIII, 476.
- 31 Tax Book, Stewart County, 1873-1874.
- 32 Deed Book, Vol. XXVII, 394. To extinguish a claim which J. S. Smith had against the property, Mrs. Yates paid him \$5.00. Ibid., 394.
- 33 Deed Book, Vol. XXVIII, 311; Stewart County Record of Settlements, Bonds, etc., 1876-1882, p. 310. The coroner reported on July 25, 1879:

Inquisition upon the body of W. G. Birchett

State of Tennessee) An inquisition held
) at Dover in the
Stewart County) county and state
aforsaid on the 25 day of July 1879 upon the
body of W. G. Birchett there lying dead by
the jurors whose names are hereto subscribed,
who upon oaths do say that said Birchett came
to his death the 25th inst. by a pistol shot
in his hands, the ball entered his forehead
causing instant death. In testimony whereof
the said jurors have hereunto set their hand
the day and date above.

G. W. Bufford
Coroner

T. D. Matheny
Charles P. Moore
J. C. Robertson
G. C. Robertson
James P. Brandon
W. E. Walter
W. S. Naive

34 Deed Book, Vol. XXIX, 149.

35 Deed Book, Vol. XL, 248.

36 Tax Books, Stewart County, 1883, 1885, 1899.

37 Deed Book, Vol. XLII, 391.

PART II

THE DOVER HOTEL DURING THE CIVIL WAR

Notes

- 1 Q. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 560.
- 2 Fort Henry and Fort Donelson Campaigns -- February, 1862 (Fort Leavenworth, 1923), 628 (Cited hereafter as Source Book.); John A. Wyeth, Life of Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest (New York, 1899), 63-64; Ed Walter, Personal Interview, December 11, 1959. There are no primary sources identifying where Pillow established his headquarters following his arrival in Dover. On pages 63-64 of the Life of Lieutenant-General Nathan Bedford Forrest appears the following statement sworn to by Dr. J. W. Smith on January 1, 1897:

I am seventy-eight years of age, and have resided in Dover, Tennessee, since 1853. My occupation had been practising medicine up to a few years ago, when I retired. I was born and raised on a farm one mile from Dover, near the ford of Lick Creek, on the Dover and Clarksville road. My father and I have owned this farm and this ford, now known as "Smith's Ford", for over seventy-five years. From my earliest boyhood I have been familiar with this road and creek. On the night of the 15th of February, 1862, about eleven o'clock, I was requested by my fellow-townsmen, J. E. Rice, to go with him to the room of General J. B. Floyd. I accompanied him to Floyd, finding him in his private quarters, with his aides. As soon as I reached General Floyd he

placed before me a map of the battle-ground of Fort Donelson, which had been drawn by General Buckner. Finding that I understood the map and was familiar with the ground, road, and creeks, General Floyd requested me to go out on the Clarksville road and investigate and examine the ford of Lick Creek. He requested me specially to ascertain the depth of the water in said ford, whether or not it was possible to cross it on horseback, and to report as soon as practicable to him at the residence of Mr. Rice, in Dover, where he went to hold a council of war. I went to said ford, examined carefully, and found the water just high enough to reach the saddle-skirts on a horse of medium size. It was easily fordable. There were no Federals in that locality, and I returned by way of the big road to the city, and found Generals Floyd, Pillow, Buckner, and Colonel Forrest holding a conference at the house of Mr. Rice, and made my report, assuring him that the road was open and that the creek could be crossed.

General Pillow, in his supplemental "After Action Report" dated March 14, 1862, noted:

In my original report I gave the after operations in the battle of February 15, and shall now pass over all the events occurring until the council of general officers, held on the night of the 15th. The lodgement of the enemy's force in the rifle pits of General Buckner's extreme right, late in the evening of the 15th of February, induced General Floyd to call a meeting of general officers in my headquarters on that night.

A. G., Series I, Vol. 223, 267.

In this report, Pillow notes that the council of war took place in his headquarters.

Colonel John C. Burch reported, "After supper a council of officers was held at Brigadier-General Pillow's headquarters."

Continuing, Burch recalled:

Orders were given for the command to be in readiness to march at 4 a.m. After this, being in General Pillow's private room, where Generals Floyd, Pillow, and Buckner all were, two scouts came in, stating that the enemy's camp-fires could be seen at the same places in front of our left that they had occupied Friday. From the remarks of the generals this information seemed to be confirmatory of information which they had previously received. Major [J. E.] Rice, an intelligent citizen of Dover, was called in and interrogated as to the character of the road to Charlotte. Ibid., 293.

Thus Colonel Burch also indicated that Pillow's quarters were the scene of the council of war. Furthermore, Burch identified Major Rice as being present.

Colonel Forrest, who was present at the council of war, commented:

He [Pillow] instructed me to go immediately and send two reliable men to ascertain the condition of a road running near the river banks and between the enemy's right and the river, and also to ascertain the position of the enemy. I obeyed his instructions and awaited the return of the scouts. They stated that they saw no enemy, but could see their fires in the same place where they were Friday night; that from their examination and information obtained from a citizen living on the river road the water was about to the saddle skirts Ibid., 295.

Forrest thus told of scouts being sent to reconnoiter the Charlotte road.

laborating on this event, Wyeth noted:

Arousing two of his most trusted men, he [Forrest] sent them out on the road to ... [Charlotte] to see if it was open. With these men there went Dr. J. W. Smith, a practising physician in Dover then, and at this day (1898) a venerable and respected man, living in retirement at his boyhood's home on the battle-field. The ... [Charlotte] road, the most travelled route to and from Dover, crosses Lick Creek about one mile from the town. The crossing is on the farm which Dr. Smith now owns, and upon which he was born and reared. Every bend in this stream, every tree on its bank, and every point where it can be crossed were as familiar to him then as now. As a boy he had waded and swum in it and fished along its banks. They reached one of the crossings and forded it. The water just touched the saddle-skirts; the depth was three feet, the width here less than one hundred yards. Wyeth, The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest, 56-57.

Major Gustavus A. Henry recalled, "On the morning of February 16 I was present during the council of war, held in Brigadier-General Pillow's headquarters, at Dover, Tenn., Generals Floyd, Pillow, Buckner, and General Pillow's staff being present." Like the other officers, Henry located the council of war in Pillow's quarters. Writing of the reconaissance, Henry noted:

General Pillow then sent a party of cavalry to inspect a slough [Lick Creek] that was filled with backwater from the river, to see if infantry could pass. They returned, after having made a thorough examination on horseback and on foot, and reported that

infantry could not pass, but they thought cavalry could. A. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 296.

Major William H. Haynes, Pillow's commissary officer,

stated:

I was present at the council of officers held at Brig. Gen. Gideon J. Pillow's headquarters, in the town of Dover, Tenn., on the morning of February 16. I awoke in my quarters at 1 a.m. by Col. John C. Burch, aide-de-camp, and ordered to report to General Pillow forthwith. I instantly proceeded to headquarters, where I saw Brigadier-Generals Floyd, Pillow, and Buckner, Colonel Forrest, Major Henry (assistant adjutant-general), Gilmer, and Jones, and Lieutenants Nicholson and Martin; the two latter volunteer aides to General Pillow.

Haynes was mistaken on one point. Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy F.

Gilmer was asleep and did not attend the council of war. Ibid.,

264, 297.

Lieutenant Hunter Nicholson, one of Pillow's aides,

reported:

I was present at the council of war, held at Brigadier-General Pillow's headquarters, in Dover, on Saturday night, February 15, 1862. I came into the room about 2 o'clock. There were present Generals Floyd, Pillow, and Buckner, Major Gilmer, Colonel Forrest, and several staff officers, among whom I distinctly remember Major Henry and Colonel Burch, of Pillow's staff. Nicholson was mistaken on one point. Major Gilmer did not attend the meeting.

The generals were discussing the necessity and practicability of marching the forces out of the intrenchments and evacuating the place. Major [John F.] Rice, a resident of Dover, and aide-de-camp of General Pillow, was describing the nature of the country and character of the roads over which the army would have to pass. He referred to some citizen -- I think a doctor, but do not remember his name -- whom he represented as more familiar with the roads. [This individual was undoubtedly Dr. J. S. Smith.] In a little while, or perhaps during the conversation of Major Rice, the gentleman referred to was announced. He gave a description of the roads which from my ignorance of the locality, I am unable to repeat. The substance was, however, that, though exceedingly difficult, it was possible to pass the roads with light baggage trains. General Pillow asked most of the questions propounded to this gentleman, as also those to Major Rice. Ibid., 289.

All the reports agree in placing the fateful council of war in Pillow's quarters. None of the participants, however, identifies the building in which Pillow's quarters were located. On January 1, 1897, Dr. J. S. Smith, in a sworn affidavit, stated that the conference took place in the Rice house. At the time of this affidavit, there remained alive at least one participant in the meeting (Buckner) and many individuals closely connected with the Fort Donelson operations. If Smith's statement concerning the location of Pillow's HQ had been in error, it would have undoubtedly stirred up a controversy, which it apparently didn't. Ed Walter, a resident of Dover for 85 years and the leading local

historian, informed the Research Historian that he had known many of the old soldiers and persons residing in Dover at the time of the battle. Walter reported that these individuals all agreed that the fateful meeting on the night of February 15 took place in the Rice house. Ed Walter, Personal Interview, December 11, 1959.

The Research Historian has been unable to unearth any documentary evidence indicating the Dover Hotel was the scene of the historic council of war.

3 Q. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 328-336; Nashville Banner, December 11, 1909.

4 Q. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 267-275, 405-406.

5 Source Book, 995; Q. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 239; Lewis Wallace, "The Capture of Fort Donelson", Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, I, 428.

6 Source Book, 995-996.

7 Ibid.

8 Q. R., Series I, Vol. VII, 239; Source Book, 996.

9 Source Book, 996-997.

10 Ibid., 997.

11 Ibid.; Wallace, "The Capture of Fort Donelson", Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, I, 428.

- 12 Source Book, 997.
- 13 Ibid., 997-998; Wallace, "The Capture of Fort Donelson", Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, I, 408.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Source Book, 998.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 Ibid., 999.
- 18 Ibid.: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. 22, pp. 589-590.
(Cited hereafter as O. R. N.)
- 19 Ibid.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 Wallace, "The Capture of Fort Donelson", Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, I, 428; Stanley Horn, The Army of Tennessee. (Indianapolis, 1941), 97; Ulysses S. Grant, Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant. (New York, 1895), I, 256-257; Nashville Banner, December 11, 1909.
- 22 Ibid.; John R. Porter, "A Blue and Gray Friendship", Century Magazine, April 1897, p. 944.
- 23 Nashville Banner, December 11, 1909; The Missouri County Times, October 8, 1928.
- 24 Source Book, 1025-1027.
- 25 "Sketch Map of Dover and the Battle Field", undated (files, Fort Donelson House Historical Association). (Cited hereafter as files, FFDHHA.)

26 Q. R., Series I, Vol. XXIII, pt. I, 34-41.

PART III

OLD TIMERS' REMINISCENCES OF THE DOVER HOTEL

Notes

- 1 Florence R. Dobson, Personal Interview, December 8, 1959.
Superintendent E. J. Pratt of the Fort Donelson National Military Park, and the Research Historian were both impressed with Mrs. Dobson's alertness and excellent memory.
- 2 Ed Walter, Personal Interview, December 8, 1959.
- 3 John C. Ralls, Personal Interview, December 9, 1959.

PART IV

FURNISHINGS OF THE DOWER HOTEL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY BELONGING TO
R. T. DANIEL

Notes

- 1 Stewart County Record Book -- Executors, Administrators and
Misc., 1858-1866, p. 130-131.
- 2 Ibid., 134-135.

PART V

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FORT DONELSON HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Notes

- 1 The Nashville Tennessean, July 3, 1927 (files, FDHHA). At the time she closed the hotel, Mrs. Hobing was past 89 years of age. The cottage into which Mrs. Hobing and her daughter moved stands on lot number 111. This cottage had reportedly been the office of John Bell when he made his race for the Presidency in 1856. At that time, the building was located at Carlisle. Subsequently, however, the building was moved to Dover.
- 2 Ltr., Mrs. Bryce Runyon to E. N. Haston, Feb. 11, 1928 (files, FDHHA); Runyon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 3 The Nashville Tennessean, July 3, 1927; Runyon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 4 The Nashville Tennessean, July 3, 1927; Ltr., Clarence W. Speight to Runyon, undated (files, FDHHA).
- 5 The Nashville Tennessean, July 3, 1927; Runyon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 6 The Nashville Tennessean, July 3, 1927.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 The Stewart County Times, July 29, 1927. The purpose of the Fort Donelson House Historical Association was the "purchase and restoration of the historic Fort Donelson House at Dover, Stewart

County, Tenn., for use as a museum of Civil War relics"

Each member of the association would receive "an attractive certificate of membership which shows the old house with the crossed United States and Confederate flags, which will be designed by Speight." The reason advanced for employing the Hobings was their long association with the hotel. Mother and daughter had been closely identified with the hotel for over half a century.

9 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, July 29, 1927.

10 The Stewart County Times, July 8, 1927.

11 The Stewart County Times, July 15, 22, and 29, 1927. The County Times gave considerable space to the association's campaign to raise funds for the purchase and restoration of the Hobing Hotel. The \$25.00 donation was made by Mr. and Mrs. Graham Scarborough.

12 The Stewart County Times, Sept. 16, 1927.

13 The Stewart County Times, Oct. 7, 1927.

14 The Stewart County Times, Nov. 4, 1927.

15 Records (files, FDHHA). Mrs. John Hurst pledged \$100.00.

16 Ltrs. Homer Hancock to Ruryon, Sept. 28, 1927; Lewis S. Pope to Ruryon, Sept. 16, 1927; Andrew L. Todd to Ruryon, Sept. 12, 1927 (files, FDHHA).

17 Records (files, FDHHA).

- 18 Ltr. Ernest W. Haston to Ruyon, Nov. 14, 1927 (files, FDHHA).
- 19 Ltr. Newell A. Link to Ruyon, Jan. 19, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 20 Ltr. "Lizzie" Hobing to Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA).
- 21 Ltr. Ruyon to Haston, Feb. 11, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 22 Ltr. Ruyon to Link, Feb. 11, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 23 Ltr. Ruyon to Hobing, Feb. 11, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 24 Ltr. Haston to Ruyon, Feb. 17, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 25 Ltr. Link to Ruyon, Feb. 17, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 26 Affidavit (files, FDHHA).
- 27 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Feb. 22 and 23, 1928.
- 28 Affidavit (files, FDHHA). The "Proposal of Sale" read as follows:

We agree to accept \$1000.00 for the site on which the old Hobing Hotel is located and accept position as Superintendent of the old Hobing Hotel at a salary of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per month, you to furnish all fuel and lights. We will use our old furniture but we retain the title to it. Arrangements will have to be made to have a boy or man to keep the place in order.

- 29 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Feb. 28 and 29, 1928. Governor Peay had passed away. Mrs. G. W. Scarborough accompanied the association's delegation to Nashville on the 25th.
- 30 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Feb. 29, 1928.
- 31 Ibid.

32 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Mar. 1, 1928. The newspaper reported:

Miss Elizabeth Woods Hobing, daughter of Mrs. E. H. Hobing and joint owner with her mother of the old Hobing House, died at 8:30 o'clock this morning as the result of paralysis with which she was stricken last Sunday [the 26th].

Miss Hobing's death was a shock to the friends and relatives. Her condition had been serious since the stroke last Sunday, but seemingly she was regaining strength up to Wednesday night. She suffered a relapse and hope for her recovery was abandoned.

Miss Hobing was born near Stribling in 1863, and while she was an infant her parents removed to Dover. She has lived in the old Donelson House practically all her life.

33 Ltr Link to Runyon, Mar. 13, 1928; Affidavit on file (files, FDHRA); Deed Book -- Stewart County, Vol. XLII, 391. Mr. E. H. Hobing was the Stewart County Circuit Court Clerk. Mr. James Rice resided in Birmingham, Alabama. In the Deed Book, the property involved is described as follows:

Beginning on a fence post on the West side of the Government Road; thence North $69\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ West 90 feet to an iron pin on the West side of a ditch; thence North 11° East 61 feet to an iron pin in Mrs. Hobing's North boundary line; thence South 73° East 91 feet to an iron pin at the Government Road; thence with said road South 11° West 75 feet to the beginning.

34 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Mar. 15, 1928.

- 35 Ltr. Speight to Runyon, Feb. 27, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 36 Ltr. Ed L. Walter to Runyon, Mar. 27, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 37 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, May 13, 1928; The Stewart County Times, May 18, 1928. Besides Speight, the Clarksville party included: G. W. Scarborough and family, Mrs. C. W. Coulter, and Mrs. Runyon.
- 38 Ltr. Walter to Mrs. Louise Booth, May 22, 1928 (files, FDHHA). On the death of Hugh Harvey, Mrs. Booth of Clarksville had been elected treasurer of the association.
- 39 Ltr. Walter to Speight, Jul. 1928; Bill, Coulter Lumber Co. and Joe Martin Company, Jul. 1928 (files, FDHHA); Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959.
- 40 Labor Payroll, undated (files, FDHHA); Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959.
- 41 Ltr. Speight to Runyon, Feb. 11, 1929; Bill, Speight & Son, Oct. 19, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 42 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA).
- 43 Stewart County Times, Aug. 31, 1928 (files, FDHHA).
- 44 Stewart County Times, Feb. 22, 1929; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA). The members of the teachers' committee were: Mrs. T. A. McDaniel, chairman; Mrs. Robert Wall; Mrs. William Lyle; Miss Verda Williams; and Mr. Gray Acree.

- 45 Ibid.: Stewart County Times, Mar. 22, 1929.
- 46 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association; Ltrs., Henry Stevens to Ruyon, Jul. 24, 1928; Moses Slaughter to Association, undated (files, FDHHA).
- 47 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association; Ltr. Haston to Ruyon, Jul. 15, 1929 (files, FDHHA).
- 48 Ltr. Speight to Ruyon, Feb. 11, 1929 (files, FDHHA).
- 49 Bill, Speight & Son, Aug. 1, 1929 (files, FDHHA).
- 50 Labor payrolls, undated (files, FDHHA); Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959.
- 51 Clarence Speight, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959; Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959.
- 52 Ibid.
- 53 Bill, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jul. 12, 1929 (files, FDHHA).
- 54 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Sept. 1, 1930 (files, FDHHA). During the year the association had received \$187.50 from subscriptions. In addition, \$63.76 had been contributed by the schools of Stewart County.
- 55 Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959.
- 56 Speight, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 57 Payroll, Jan. 4, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 58 Stewart County Times, Dec. 13, 1929.

- 59 Payroll, Jan. 4, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 60 Payroll, Apr. 14, 1930; Bill, Cherry & McElroy, Apr. 4, 1930 (files, FDHHA). To complete the frames and sashes, the association purchased: barrel bolts, glazier points, six boxes of putty, two dozen sash locks, 24 window lifts, nails, and linseed oil.
- 61 Payroll, May 10, 1930; Bill, Cherry & McElroy, May 7, 1930; Bill, Joe Martin Company, May 6, 1930; Bill, J. B. Walter Company, May 10, 1930 (files, FDHHA). The three companies sold the associations: locks, hinges, putty, screws, keys, linseed oil, 10 x 14 window panes, paint, brads, nails, weather-boarding, 60 feet of 1/4 round, molding, 84 feet of gutter, hangers, elbows, down spouts, connections, joints, filters, tile elbows, cement, bolts, and glue.
- 62 Payroll, May 10, 1930 (files, FDHHA); Walter, Personal Interview, Dec. 8, 1959. Carney was paid at the rate of \$4.40 per hour. It took him 21 hours to complete the grading.
- 63 Stewart County Times, May 23, 1930.
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 Payroll, Jul. 8, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 66 Payroll, Sept. 3, 1930; Bills, Cherry & McElroy, Aug. 30, 1930; J. B. Walter Company, Sept. 4, 1930; Joe Martin Company, Sept. 1, 1930; Askev-Coulter-Gwen Drug Company, Aug. 1930 (files,

- FDHHA). Among the items bought by the association from these firms were: 391½ feet of canvas; canvas tacks; two gallons of pearl gray paint; one pint black paint; one can black paint; four gallons of paint, color not listed; three gallons of turpentine; one sack of plaster; one sack of cement; Moore's Push Pins; paste; ceiling, wall, and border paper; nine rolls of passe-partout.
- 67 Bills, A. F. Speight & Son, Sept. 1, 1930 (files, FDHHA). Speight & Son charged the association \$66.75 for building and repairing the display cases.
- 68 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Aug. 30, 1930.
- 69 Ibid.
- 70 Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, Sept. 2, 1930. The society editor of the Leaf-Chronicle reported, "Mrs. J. H. Hobing from whom the place was purchased sat on the front colonial verandah and welcomed the guests."
- 71 Ibid. The fees for the house established by the association were: single adult, \$.25; children under 12, \$.10; groups of not more than five or more than ten, \$.20 each; groups of ten or more, \$.15 each; school groups, \$.10 each. Minutes, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Sept. 3, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 72 Ltr. Louise Booth to John Nolan, Sept. 15, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 73 Ltr. Edgar Graham to Booth, Sept. 19, 1930 (files, FDHHA).

- 74 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Oct. 1, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 75 Ltr. Ruryon to Austin Peay, Jun. 26, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 76 Ltr. Booth to Roy C. Wallace, Nov. 10, 1931 (files, FDHHA).
- 77 Ltr. Wallace to Booth, Nov. 17, 1931 (files, FDHHA).
- 78 Ltr. Booth to Wallace, May 7, 1932 (files, FDHHA).
- 79 Ltr. Wallace to Booth, May 14, 1932 (files, FDHHA).
- 80 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jul. 30, 1931; Ltrs., Mrs. B. H. Hobing to Booth, Oct. 22, 1930, and Jul. 2, 1931 (files, FDHHA).
- 81 Ltr. Mrs. B. H. Hobing to Ruryon, Nov. 28, 1930 (files, FDHHA).
- 82 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Sept. 1, 1933 (files, FDHHA).
- 83 Ltr. Ruryon to Joseph W. Byrns, Sept. 19, 1933 (files, FDHHA).
- 84 Ltr. Byrns to Ruryon, Sept. 23, 1933; Ltr. Ruryon to Earl Swann, Apr. 11, 1935 (files, FDHHA).
- 85 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Mar. 13, 1935 (files, FDHHA). On Sept. 30, 1933, the comptroller sent the association a warrant for \$750.00; one month later, a check for \$127.50 reached the treasurer. The state forwarded the balance of the funds due the association in sixteen instalments of \$63.75.

- 86 Minutes, Dec. 9, 1933, Meeting of the Directors, Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA); Runyon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959. Members present at the meeting besides Mrs. Runyon were: Mr. Scarborough, Judge Link, and Mrs. Booth.
- 87 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Mar. 13, 1935 (files, FDHHA); Runyon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 88 Ltr. Runyon to W. P. Bruton, Apr. 11, 1955 (files, FDHHA).
- 89 Note to the Files, Jun. 17, 1935 (files, FDHHA).
- 90 Bill, Carl Martin, Jun. 20, 1935 (files, FDHHA). The lights to be used in the sockets cost the association an additional \$4.05.
- 91 Ltr. Bruton to Runyon, May 27, 1935; Bill, J. B. Crookrell, Jun. 1, 1935 (files, FDHHA). In painting the building, Mitzell used: 10 gallons of outside white, 1 gallon pea green, 2 gallons dust colored enamel, 8 gallons of linseed oil, 1½ gallons of turpentine, 1 quart of black SWP, 1 gallon 69 PAD, ½ gallon cream gray flat tone, ½ gallon pale gray flat tone, ½ gallon buff flat tone, ½ gallon gray flat tone, 1 gallon gray PAD, 1 gallon wall size, and one gallon cream luster.
- 92 Bills, Balous Houston, undated, and Cherry & McElroy, May 31, 1935 (files, FDHHA). Houston had purchased the following materials from Cherry & McElroy: nails, holding, screen wire, tacks, door hooks, and 144 feet of screen stripping.

- 93 Bill, S. H. Rowlett, Jun. 29, 1935 (files, FDHHA).
- 94 Ltrs. Scarborough to Booth, undated; Ruryon to Earl Swann, Apr. 11, 1935. (files, FDHHA).
- 95 Ltr. Bruton to Trustees, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jun. 1, 1936; Estimates, W. K. Stone, J. W. Marshall, and H. H. Bruton (files, FDHHA).
- 96 Ltr. Scarborough to Link, Jun. 5, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 97 Ltr. Link to Scarborough, Jun. 8, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 98 Contract, Stone with the Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA).
- 99 Ltr. Scarborough to Bruton, Jun. 11, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 100 Ltrs. Booth to Bruton, Jun. 24, 27, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 101 Contract, Stone with the Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA).
- 102 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Jun. 29, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 103 Ltr. Scarborough to Bruton, Jun. 29, 1936 (files, FDHHA).
- 104 Ltr. Superintendent E. J. Pratt to Edwin C. Bearss, Dec. 27, 1959; Bill, H. H. Bruton, Sept. 4, 1936; Estimate of Repairs on Fort Donelson Historical Building, by H. H. Bruton, undated (files, FDHHA).
- 105 Ltr. Ruryon to Booth, undated (files, FDHHA); Ruryon, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.

106 Bills, J. B. Walter Company, Apr. 13, 1937 (files, FDHHA).
Materials used in this work included: 24 sacks of cement, 100
feet of lumber, lumber for sill, 48 feet of weatherboarding, and
a pump. At the time that Mr. Walter billed the association, he
neglected to include the bill from Cherry & McElroy for the
weatherboarding. This bill, which came to \$2.40, was paid by the
association on Nov. 2, 1937.

107 Bill, Askew-Coulter-Owen Drug Company, Oct. 1, 1937 (files,
FDHHA).

108 Bill, Manning-Orgain Supply Company, Nov. 30, 1937; bill,
L. C. Sykes, Jan. 12, 1938; Ltrs. Bruton to Scarborough, Dec. 2
and 21, 1937 (files, FDHHA). The following paints and supplies
were purchased from Manning-Orgain Supply Company: six gallons
P&L, five gallons R&B-red, six gallons asphalt roof coating, two
gallons SWP-white, three gallons linseed oil, one gallon
turpentine, five gallons shingle stain, one brush, and one brick
liner.

109 Ltrs. Fuyon to John B. Sprouse, A. E. Broadbent and Guyler
Dunbar, Feb. 24, 1937; Quarterly Allotments -- Work Program
Fiscal Year 1937-38, Jul. 31, 1937 (files, FDHHA).

110 Financial Statement, Fort Lonelson House Historical
Association, Oct. 13, 1938; Bill, Manning-Orgain Supply Company,
Apr. 26, 1938 (files, FDHHA). Paints and painting supplies

purchased from Manning-Orgain in April were: one gallon S&P-white, one gallon lustre white, one gallon 69 P&D, one gallon turpentine, one gallon linseed oil, one-half gallon light tan thinner.

111 Bill, Dickson Drug and Music Company, Apr. 26, 1938 (files, FDHHA). Among the items purchased from the firm were: 47 yards of wallpaper, 36 yards of ceiling paper, 74 yards of border, and four bags of paste.

112 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Oct. 13, 1938 (files, FDHHA).

113 Bills, Good-Wilson Drugs, Jun. 7, 1938; Cherry & McElroy, Jun. 16, 1938; Ltrs. Bruton to Booth, May 28 and Jun. 18, 1938 (files, FDHHA). The following items were purchased from Cherry & McElroy: three cans putty, nails, screen fixtures, 16 feet window stop, 20 feet of gutter, 16 gutter hangers, galvanized metal and two lights.

114 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Oct. 3, 1938 (files, FDHHA).

115 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jan. 24, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

116 Ibid.

117 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Jun. 5, 1939 (files, FDHHA).

118 Quarterly Allotments -- Work Program Fiscal Year 1939-1940, Aug. 15, 1939.

119 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Mar. 25, 1940; Bill, Cherry & McElroy,

- Mar. 4, 1940; Check, Hartford Fire Insurance Company, Mar. 13, 1940 (files, FDNHA). Cherry & McElroy billed the association for: four lights 10x12, one light 20x28, two lights 10x16, one light 8x10, two boxes of putty, and glazier points.
- 120 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, May 28, 1940; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jan. 24, 1941 (files, FDNHA).
- 121 Bill, Metcalfe Florist, Aug. 1, 1940 (files, FDNHA).
- 122 Ltr. Scarborough to Link, Jul. 23, 1940 (files, FDNHA).
- 123 Ltr. Link to Scarborough, Jul. 23, 1940 (files, FDNHA).
- 124 Ltr. Scarborough to Runyon, Aug. 6, 1940. (files, FDNHA).
- 125 Ltr. Scarborough to Bruton, Aug. 12, 1940 (files, FDNHA).
- 126 Ltrs. Booth to Lewis and Booth to Walter, Jan. 31, 1940. (files, FDNHA).
- 127 Ltr. Booth to Porter Herdon, Jan. 31, 1941 (files, FDNHA).
- 128 Ltr. Booth to Speight, Jan. 31, 1941 (files, FDNHA).
- 129 Ltr. Runyon to Bearss, undated (files, Research Historian).
- 130 Bills, A. T. Hardison & Co., Mar. 28, 1941; J. B. Walter Co., Apr. 22, 1941. (files, FDNHA). It cost the association \$9.00 to have the bricks hauled from Nashville to Dover.
- 131 Payroll, "Fort Donelson Memorial House", April-May 1941 (files, FDNHA).

132 Bill, Cherry & McElroy, Jun. 24, 1941 (files, FDHHA). During this period, Cherry & McElroy sold the association: two gallons of linseed oil, one gallon oxide of iron, 16 pounds of oxide of iron, two pounds of roof cement, 11 joints 4-inch tile, one elbow, one gallon white inside paint, two gallons white outside paint, one gallon floor porch paint, one quart of paint (type and color unspecified), two gallons turpentine, two - 2x12x16, one - 1x8x8, five cans of putty, shoe mold, 116 feet screen material, 29 feet door stop, 10 yards screen wire, 125 bricks, 20 hooks and eyes, one sack of cement, assorted hinges, nails, tacks and brads. At the same time, the association purchased three paint brushes, two gallons of porch and deck enamel, six gallons of creosote, and assorted nails from the J. E. Walter Co. Bill, J. E. Walter Co., June 11, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

133 Payroll, "Fort Donalson Memorial House", Jun. 24, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

134 Bill, L. C. Sykes, Jun. 6, 1941 (files, FDHHA). Sykes supplied the association with: 10 pieces 1 x 8; 740' tie siding; 50, 2 x 4 x 8'; 12, 2 x 6 x 10'; one 2 x 7 x 10'; and two 2 x 8 x 16'.

135 Bills, J. E. Walter Co., Jul. 11, 1941, and Joe Hartin Co., Jun. 30, 1941 (files, FDHHA); Mr. Pratt to Bearss, Jan. 4, 1960. Fifty sacks of cement, five loads of gravel and one of sand were

needed to finish the walks. The brick walk on the east and south sides of the building was 42" in width. On the outside, the walk was bounded by a concrete curb that was 4 inches wide, and from 4 to 9 inches high.

136 Payroll, "Fort Donelson Memorial House", Jun. 24, 1941 (files, FDHHA)

137 Check, McNeal & Edwards Co., Jun. 19, 1941; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, 1941; (files, FDHHA).

138 Check, Elvira Bruton, Jul. 21, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

139 Bill, Dickson-Sadler Co., Jun. 3, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

140 Bill, Bruton, undated; check, Bruton, Jun. 3, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

141 Checks, J. H. Weeks Company, Jul. 1, 1941, and John Bruton, Dec. 8, 1941; Financial Statement, 1941, Fort Donelson House Historical Association (files, FDHHA).

142 Bill, Montgomery Ward, May 5, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

143 Check, Good-Wilson Drugs, Oct. 4, 1941 (files, FDHHA).

144 Ltr, Bruton to Booth, Oct. 16, 1941 (files, FDHHA). The plaque reads as follows:

IN THIS ROOM ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 16, 1862, A
CONFERENCE WAS HELD TO CONSIDER THE SURRENDER OF FORT DONELSON

ATTENDING WERE

GEN. CLOYD	MAJ. GILMER
GEN. FELLOW	MAJ. HAYNES
GEN. BUCKNER	MAJ. HERRING
COL. FORREST	MAJ. JONES
COL. BURCH	LT. MARTIN

LT. NICHOLSON

AFTER A DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED TO SURRENDER THE FORT,
COLONELS FORREST AND BURCH REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ATTEMPT
THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR MEN. PERMISSION WAS GRANTED BY
GENERAL BUCKNER. DR. J. M. SMITH OF DOVER GUIDED THE
TROOPS THROUGH THE RECEDING BACKWATERS OF LICK CREEK AT
SMITH'S FORD AND WITHDRAWAL WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT LOSS.

This tablet was erected by the descendants of Colonel
John G. Burch, CSA.

- 145 Bill, Good-Wilson Drugs, Nov. 1, 1941 (files, FDHHA).
- 146 Ltr. Bruton to Scarborough, Nov. 26, 1941 (files, FDHHA).
- 147 Bill, Hugh Lindsay, undated (files, FDHHA).
- 148 Ltr. Scarborough to Bruton, Oct. 13, 1941 (files, FDHHA).
- 149 Quarterly Allotments — Work Program Fiscal Year 1941-42
(files, FDHHA).
- 150 Ltr. Bruton to Runyon, Mar. 16, 1942; bill, J. B. Walter Co.,
Jan. 1, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 151 Ltr. Bruton to Runyon, May 26, 1942 (files, FDHHA). W. A.
Sykes did the carpentry work, while Cherry & McElroy furnished
the lumber.

- 151 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Sept. 7, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 152 Ltr. George W. Welch, Jr. to Scarborough, Aug. 7, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 154 Ltr. Scarborough to W. C. Johnson, Jul. 30, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 155 Ltr. Johnson to Scarborough, Aug. 10, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 156 Ltr. Scarborough to Bruton, Aug. 10, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 157 Check, Collector of Internal Revenue, Aug. 11, 1942; Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Aug. 23, 1942 (files, FDHHA).
- 158 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Aug. 9, 1943; Bill, Cherry & McIlroy, Aug. 7, 1943 (files, FDHHA).
- 159 Note, Bruton to Scarborough, undated (files, FDHHA).
- 160 Ltr. Louise Bruton Welch to Booth, Feb. 10, 1944; Check, Colloony County Lumber Co., Feb. 11, 1944 (files, FDHHA).
- 161 Ltr. Welch to Booth, Mar. 13, 1944 (files, FDHHA).
- 162 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Mar. 5, 1944 (files, FDHHA).
- 163 Bill, Cherry & McIlroy, Mar. 13, 1944 (files, FDHHA). The association purchased the following items from Cherry & McIlroy: six pounds paper paste, deadening felt, three - 1x6x12, one - 1x8x12, two 1x2x12, one - 1x6x10, one pine plank, 62 feet base board strips, two sheets 400 sheet rock, three quarts white paint, two quarts of turpentine, two pairs of hinges, two cupboard turns, 17 yards perlatape, 64 feet of wire sold, \$.48 worth of 1/4 round, one quart of varnish, one paint brush, one pint black paint, and assorted nails.

- 164 Bill, Dickson-Sadler Drug Company, Mar. 1, 1944; check to Good-Wilson Drugs, Mar. 25, 1944 (files, FDHHA).
- 165 Bill, Burton Drug Co., Jul. 1, 1944 (files, FDHHA).
- 166 Check to Cherry & McElroy, Jul. 5, 1945 (files, FDHHA).
- 167 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Oct. 22, 1945; bill, Joe Martin Co., Oct. 10, 1945 (files, FDHHA).
- 168 Ltr. Bruton to Booth, Oct. 22, 1945 (files, FDHHA).
- 169 Ltr. Booth to Bruton, undated; check to Bruton, May 5, 1945 (files, FDHHA).
- 170 Quarterly Allotments -- Work Program Fiscal Year 1945-46 (files, FDHHA).
- 171 Ltr. McGee to Booth, May 10, 1946 (files, FDHHA).
- 172 Bill, Orgain Building Supply Co., May 20, 1946 (files, FDHHA).
- 173 Bill, McElroy & Brigham, Jun. 29, 1946 (files, FDHHA). Items purchased from McElroy & Brigham were: two quarts floor enamel, six pump rubbers, one bottom ring, 144 feet of chain, one 10-foot tube, and one cistern chain.
- 174 Unsigned, undated memorandum; bill, McElroy & Brigham, Jul. 23, 1946 (files, FDHHA).
- 175 Ltr. McGee to Booth, Nov. 25, 1946 (files, FDHHA).
- 176 Bill, Woodrow Dill, Jun. 1948; Ltr. McGee to Booth, Jun. 8, 1948 (files, FDHHA). The items purchased from William Dill

included: enamel, brushes, paint, shellac, and tacks.

177 Bill, Will R. Prigham, Jun. 1948 (files, FDHHA). Bill R.

Prigham sold the association five rolls #3 paper, 12 rolls ceiling paper, 196 feet of border, six rolls #6 paper, seven rolls #7 paper, two rolls of paper (unspecified), ten pounds of paste, three brushes, twelve light bulbs, five pull chain receptacles, and three porcelain drops.

178 Ltr. McGee to Footh, Jun. 8, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

179 Ltr. Nunyon to Pears, Jan. 11, 1960 (files, Research Historian).

180 Ltr. S. C. Lewis to Scarborough, Jun. 21, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

181 Ltr. Scarborough to Lewis, Jun. 22, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

182 Labor Payrolls, Jun. 28, Jul. 3, 10, 17, and 31, 1948 (files, FDHHA). In addition to Jade Cherry, the labor force employed included: Luke, Bernice and Jade Cherry, Jr.

183 Bill, Woodrow Bill, Jul. 29, 1948 (files, FDHHA). The following items were purchased from Woodrow Bill: \$134.55 worth of paint and enamel, four gallons of linseed oil, putty, nails, ells, ends, downspout, gutters, hangers, cut-off, bolts and washers, gutter connectors, locks, and lime.

184 Bill, W. R. Prigham Hardware, Aug. 31, 1948, (files, FDHHA). W. R. Prigham supplied: 60 feet of molding, 50 feet of

1x2, 14 yards of screen, tacks, hooks and eyes, and window molding.

185 Bills, Joe Martin Co., June 6 and July 14, 1948, and Jimmie Erwin, Jun. 28, 1948; Ltr. Lewis to Booth, Jan. 25, 1949 (files, FDHHA).

186 Bill, F. M. Bruton, Aug. 2, 1948 (files, FDHHA). The association purchased: 142 rolls of side wall at prices ranging from \$3.35 to \$1.80 per roll; 48 rolls of ceiling at \$.25 per roll; 222 yards of binder at \$.10 per yard; and 10 bags of paste.

187 Bill, Clarksville Decorating Company, Jul. 1948 (files, FDHHA).

188 Bill, Orgain Building Supply Co., Sept. 1948 (files, FDHHA).

189 Ltr. Louise Bruton Fisher to Booth, Aug. 19, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

190 Ltr. Booth to Bruton, March 12, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

191 Ltr. Booth to Bruton, Apr. 16, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

192 Ltr. McGee to Booth, Apr. 22, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

193 Ltr. Booth to Bruton, Apr. 26, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

194 Ltr. Bruton to Ruyon, Oct. 30, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

195 Ltrs. Opal Sills to Ruyon, Oct. 26, 1948; Mrs. Chas. Tubbs to Ruyon, undated; Mrs. J. H. Scarborough to Ruyon, Nov. 2,

1948; Mrs. George Dargen to Ruyon, Oct. 27, 1948 (files, FDHHA).

196 The Stewart County Times, Nov. 20, 1948; Ltrs. Ruyon to Link, Ruyon to Walter and Ruyon to Lewis, Nov. 2, 1948; Booth

- to Mrs. George Griggs, Dec. 2, 1948 (files, FDHHA).
- 197 Ltr. Ruyon to Mrs. Charles Cherry, Nov. 17, 1948 (files, FDHHA).
- 198 The Stewart County Times, Dec. 4, 1948.
- 199 Ltrs. Griggs to Booth, Dec. 1, 1948; Booth to Lewis, Dec. 3, 1948; Bill, Brigham's Hardware, Dec. 1, 1948 (files, FDHHA). The following items were purchased from the hardware store: 36 feet of poplar lumber, poplar lumber for door, 20 feet of door stop, one bag of plaster, one pair of hinges, one quart of white enamel, assorted nails, and one can of plastic wood.
- 200 Check to Mrs. Stafford Doyle, Apr. 25, 1949; Ltr. Booth to Doyle, Apr. 25, 1949; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jul. 28, 1951; bills, St. John Cabinet Shop, Jun. 2, 1949, and Fred Biggs, Jul. 9, 1949 (files, FDHHA). The cabinet shop repaired three chairs and a safe and polished a table top.
- 201 Bills, McNeal & Edwards Co., Apr. 29 and Jun. 21, 1949 (files, FDHHA).
- 202 Bills, Mess. Viola Cato and Chas. Parker, Jul. 14, 1949 (files, FDHHA).
- 203 Ltr. Lewis to Booth, Apr. 25, 1949; bills, Claude Sexton, May 13, 1949; Brigham Hardware, May 28, 1949, and Woodrow Dill, Apr. 26, 1949; (files, FDHHA). Brigham Hardware and Woodrow Dill sold the association: two gallons gray paint, five gallons of

paint (color unlisted), seven gallons kumtone, two grates, 100 fire bricks, cement, brush, and thinner.

204 Bill, Berrice Cherry, Jun. 1, 1949 (files, FDHHA).

205 Bill, John and David Marshall, Dec. 30, 1949 (files, FDHHA).

The Brigham Hardware supplied the 50 red bricks and the 55 fire bricks that were used in repairing the fireplace.

206 Ltrs. Lewis to Booth, Jan. 29, 1949 (files, FDHHA). Miss Robbye Taylor was paid \$6.50 for typing the contract and an inventory of the museum items.

207 Ltr. C. F. Taylor to Porter Herndon, Apr. 27, 1949; bill, W. J. McLevain, May 12, 1949 (files, FDHHA). In June, acid refills for the extinguishers were purchased from Woodrow Dill. Bill, Woodrow Dill, Jun. 29, 1949 (files, FDHHA).

208 Quarterly Allotments -- Work Program for Fiscal Year 1949-50; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Jul. 28, 1951 (files, FDHHA). The association did not receive the entire appropriation of \$1,454.00, because \$38.00 of it was ordered impounded.

209 Bills, Woodrow Dill, Jun. 3, 1950; J. B. Walter Co., June 1950; Brigham Hardware, April 29 and July 5, 1950; Will Sexton, June 30, 1950; Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, July 28, 1951 (files, FDHHA). The association purchased the following items from the designated firms: Woodrow

Dill, kenton and paste; Brigham Hardware, 12 feet of 3-inch drain pipe, assorted screws, connections, 24 clamps, one sill plate, ten rolls of ceiling paper, 134 feet of border, two pounds of paste, one quart of kenton, paint and paint thinner, two pounds of paste, ten pieces of sandpaper, and 13 feet of screen; J. B. Walter Co. sold the association: paint, range cable, switch box, and crepe paper.

210 Bills, Evans Gentry, June 5, 1951; Woodrow Dill, May 29, 1951; Brigham Hardware, Dec. 27, 1951; Ltrs. Lewis to Booth, Jan. 8, 1952 and Booth to Lewis, Jan. 9, 1952 (files, FDHHA).

211 Ltr. Lewis to Runyon, July 13, 1951 (files, FDHHA).

212 Quarterly allotments -- Work Program Fiscal Year 1951-1952 (files, FDHHA).

213 Check, Brigham Hardware, Jan. 9, 1952 (files, FDHHA).

214 Bill, Columbia Neon Company, June 30, 1952 (files, FDHHA).

215 Ltr. Booth to Lewis, May 20, 1952; Petition, "To the Fort Donelson House Historical Society" (files, FDHHA).

216 Ltr. Sylvia Sills to Booth, Mar. 23, 1953; check to Woodrow Dill, Mar. 24, 1953; Bill, Brigham Hardware, Mar. 13 and 19, 1953 (files, FDHHA). The following materials were purchased from Brigham Hardware: five rolls of wall paper, three rolls of ceiling paper, 50 feet of border, two quarts of paint, one pint of turpentine, and two pounds of paste.

- 217 Ltr. Booth to Sills, Mar. 14, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
- 218 Ltr. Sills to Booth, Mar. 23, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
- 219 Ltr. Booth to Sills, Apr. 1, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
- 220 Bills, Brigham Hardware, Apr. 22 and 23, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
The installation of the sink required: 18 feet of plastic pipe, two nipples, one ell, one coupling, one clamp, one vent, two - 1"x2"x2", one sink, two strainers, one trap.
- 221 Bills, Sherman T. Quin, Sept. 28, 1953, and Marvin Hayes Lines, Jan. 1, 1954 (files, FDHHA).
- 222 Bill, Marvin Hayes Lines, Oct. 23 and Nov. 6, 1953; check to Randolph Dunn, Nov. 2, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
- 223 Financial statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Dec. 31, 1954; Certification of Exemption from Collection of Federal Tax on Admissions, Jul. 9, 1953 (files, FDHHA).
- 224 Bill, Brigham Hardware, Jan. 28, 1954; Ltrs. Bills to Booth, Dec. 30, 1953 and Feb. 1, 1954 (files, FDHHA). The itemized bill for the goods and services provided by Brigham Hardware has disappeared.
- 225 Ltr. Lewis to Booth, Apr. 19, 1954; bill, Decorators Wall Paper Co., April 9, 1954 (files, FDHHA). Easton purchased 72 rolls of paper at prices ranging from \$.65 a roll to \$.35, and 70 yards of border. The price of the border varied between \$.10 and \$.06 a yard.

- 226 Ltrs. G. T. Scurlock to Ruryon, Oct. 10, 1954; Ruryon to Bearss, Jan. 11, 1960 (files, FDHHA).
- 227 Ltr. Ruryon to Scurlock, Oct. 14, 1954 (files, FDHHA).
- 228 Ltr. Ruryon to Murphy and Ruryon to Sexton, Oct. 14, 1954 (files, FDHHA).
- 229 Bill, S. M. Burton, Dec. 1, 1954 (files, FDHHA). The association bought 14 rolls of wallpaper at \$3.75 a roll, and 24 yards of border at \$.12 a yard.
- 230 Bill, N. P. Murphy, Nov. 22, 1954; check to W. E. Sexton, Nov. 9, 1954; (files, FDHHA).
- 231 Ltr. Scurlock to Ruryon, Dec. 21, 1954 (files, FDHHA). Mr. Speight informed the Research Historian that Scurlock reinforced the second floor joists by attaching 2x8's to the existing joists. Speight, Personal Interview, Dec. 10, 1959.
- 232 Bill, Woodrow Dill, Jan. 4, 1955 (files, FDHHA). Items purchased from Woodrow Dill were: polish, Glo-coat, glass and floor wax.
- 233 Bills, Brigham Hardware, Apr. 16 and Jul. 16, 1955 (files, FDHHA).
- 234 Ltr. Booth to S. C. Dunbar, Feb. 22, 1955 (files, FDHHA).
- 235 Ltr. Edward J. Baling to Ruryon, Aug. 9, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 236 Bill, Dover Electric Company, June 30, 1956 (files, FDHHA).
- 237 Bill, Brigham Hardware, Dec. 18, 1956 (files, FDHHA).

- 238 Bill, Woodrow Bill, Apr. 9, 1956 (files, FDHHA). These cleaning supplies included: Glo-coat, wax and cleaner.
- 239 Financial Statement, Fort Donelson House Historical Association, Apr. 11, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 240 Bills, Brigham Hardware, Jan. 11 and 18, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 241 Bill, Brigham Hardware, Feb. 22, 1957 (files, FDHHA). In extending the electrical service, the association purchased: one receptacle, one light fixture, 24 feet of wire, and splicing caps and tape.
- 242 Ltr. Boling to Ruyon, Aug. 9, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 243 Ltr. Ruyon to Gov. Frank G. Clement, Aug. 6, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 244 Ltr. Boling to Ruyon, Aug. 9, 1957 (files, FDHHA).
- 245 Ibid.
- 246 Bill, Dover Electric Co., Feb. 22, 1958 (files, FDHHA). In addition to the labor, it required the following fixtures to repair the plumbing: one float, one S&W valve, and one 3/4" cutoff valve.
- 247 Bill, Brigham Hardware, Apr. 14, 1958 (files, FDHHA).
- 248 Bills, Brigham Hardware, May 1 and Aug. 18, 1958 (files, FDHHA). In May, the association paid \$2.25 for a commode float and rod. Four months later, \$5.10 was disbursed to the same firm for cleaning the commode.
- 249 Bill, Woodrow Bill, Jan. 1, 1958 (files, FDHHA).

250 Bill. Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle. Apr. 14, 1958; Ltr. Sills
to Booth, Feb. 11, 1958 (files. FDHHA).

251 Check to Brigham Hardware, Jan. 17, 1959 (files. FDHHA).

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Figure 1.

"Map of Dover and the Battle Field".

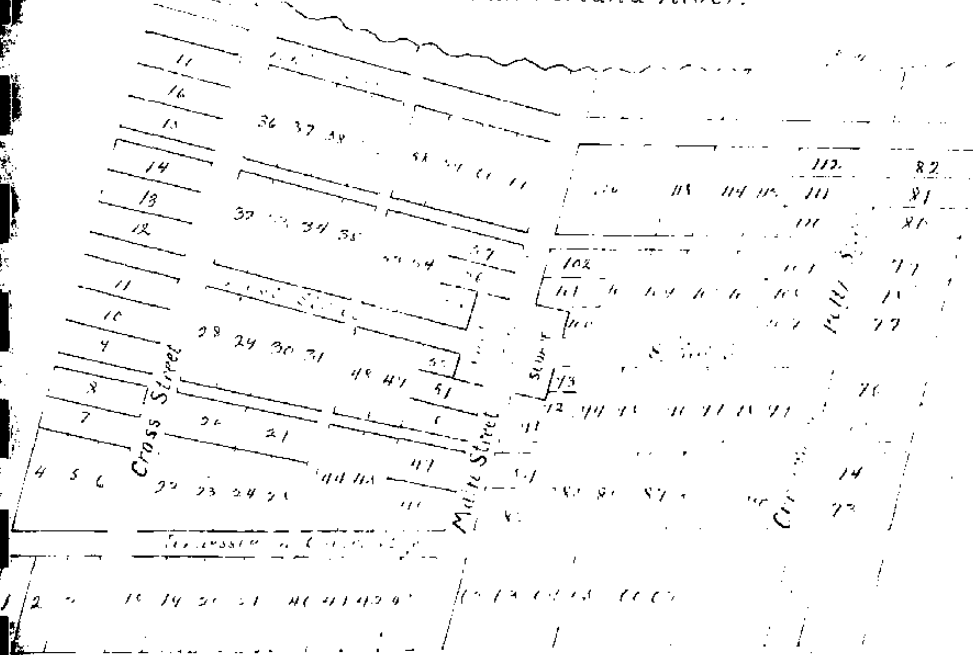
Draftsman Unknown. February 1863.

Figure 2.

"Plan of the Town of Dover, Tennessee".

Drawn by George H. Dobson. 1911.

Cumberland River



TOWN OF DOVER.

Plate I.

"Dover ... [Hotel] -- General Buckner's Headquarters
and the Scene of the Surrender".

From a Photograph Taken in 1864.

Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. I. 409.

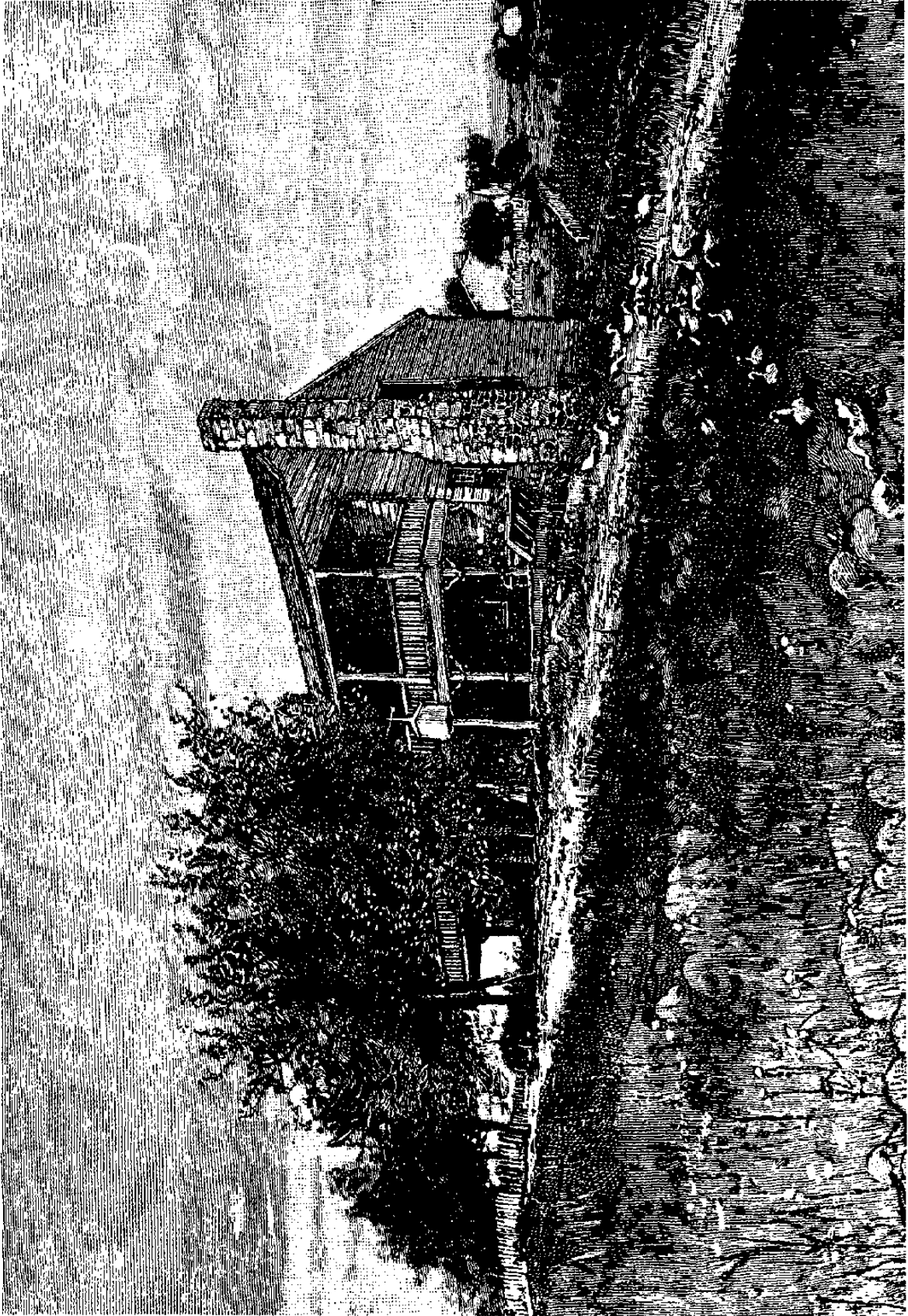


Plate II.

"The Dover ... [Hotel]"

This picture is incorrectly captioned "where in 1862 Forrest refused to allow his men to be included in the surrender at Fort Donelson -- and whence he stepped forth to his first fame." Robert S. Henry, "First With the Next" Forrest, p. 60. This picture first appeared in The Confederate Veteran at the Turn of the Century.

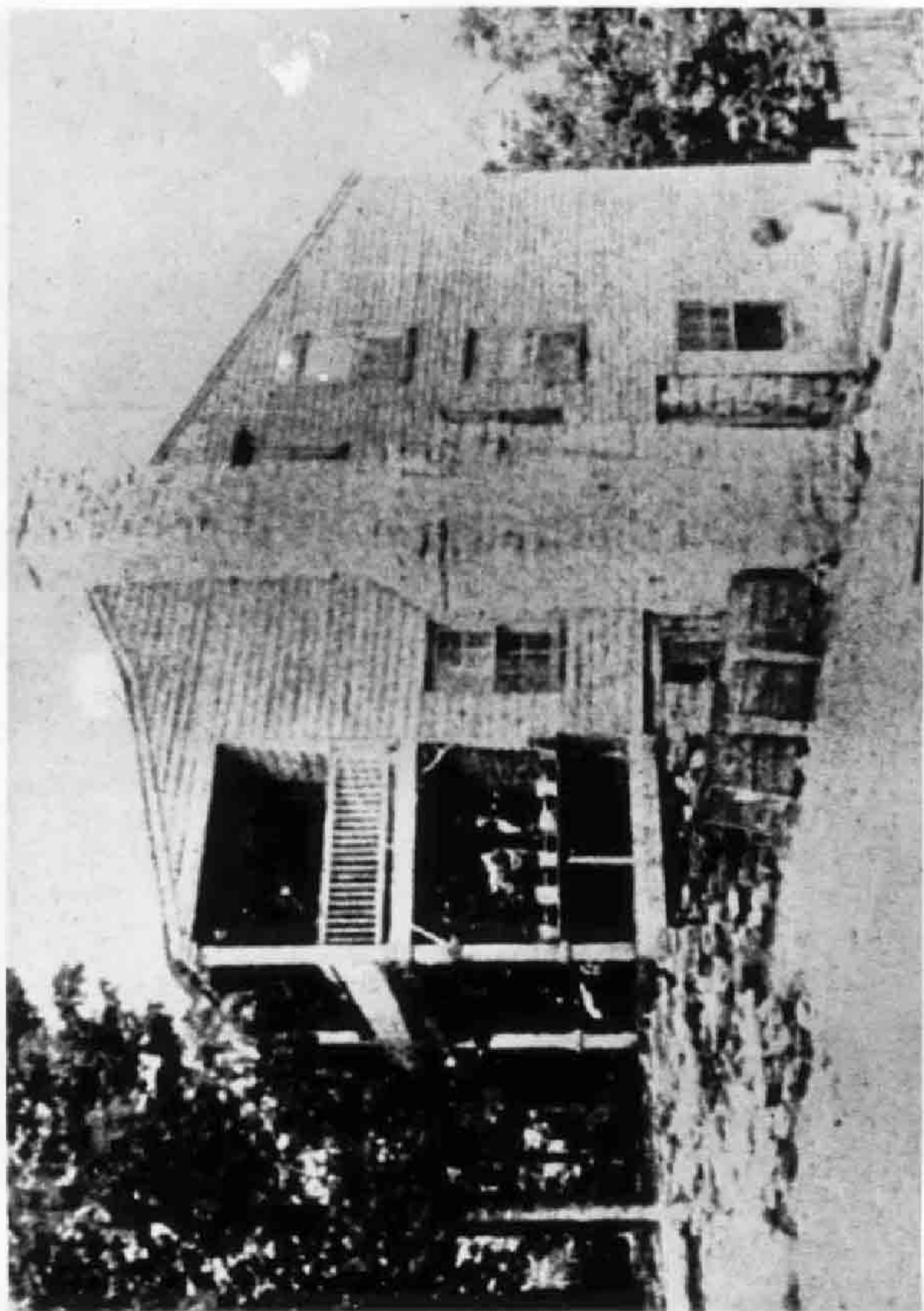
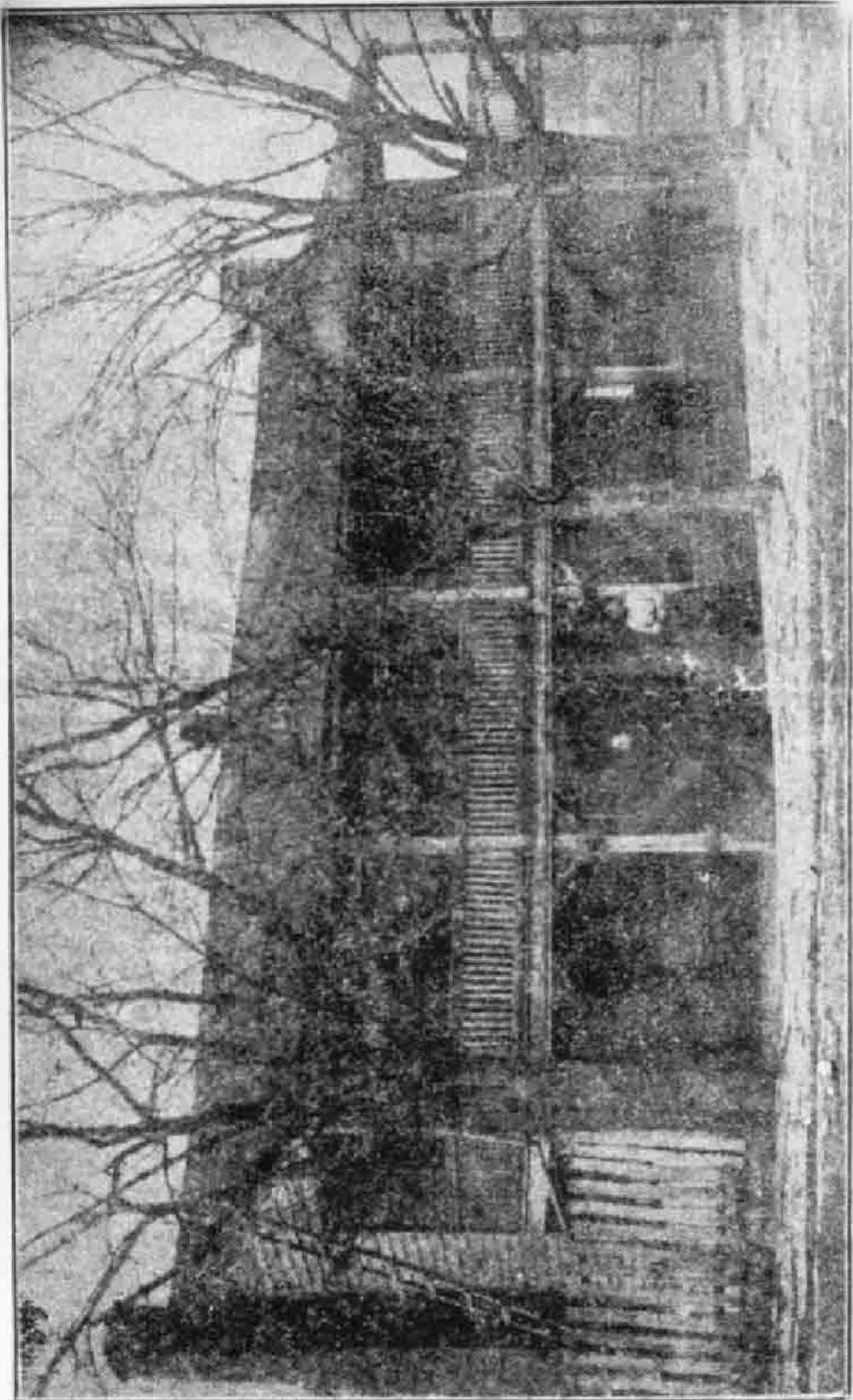


Plate III.

"Famous Old Hotel at Dover, on the Edge of
Proposed National Park".

Photograph in The Nashville Tennessean. July 3, 1927.



1
A dilapidated wooden building, possibly a porch or a small structure, heavily overgrown with bare trees and vines.

Plate IV.

"North Side of the Dover Hotel".

Photograph by Mrs. Bryce Bayton. c. 1927.



Plate V.

"Second Floor Gallery Dover Hotel".

Photograph by Mrs. Bryce Wanyon. c. 1927.



Plate VI.

"South Side of the Dover Hotel".

Photograph by Unknown Photographer During the
Restoration of the Building. c. 1928-1929.



Plate VII.

"Back - Showing Windows and Door into Old Dining Room.

View Made After Straightening and Levelling".

Photograph by Unknown Photographer During the

Restoration of the Building. c. 1928-1929.

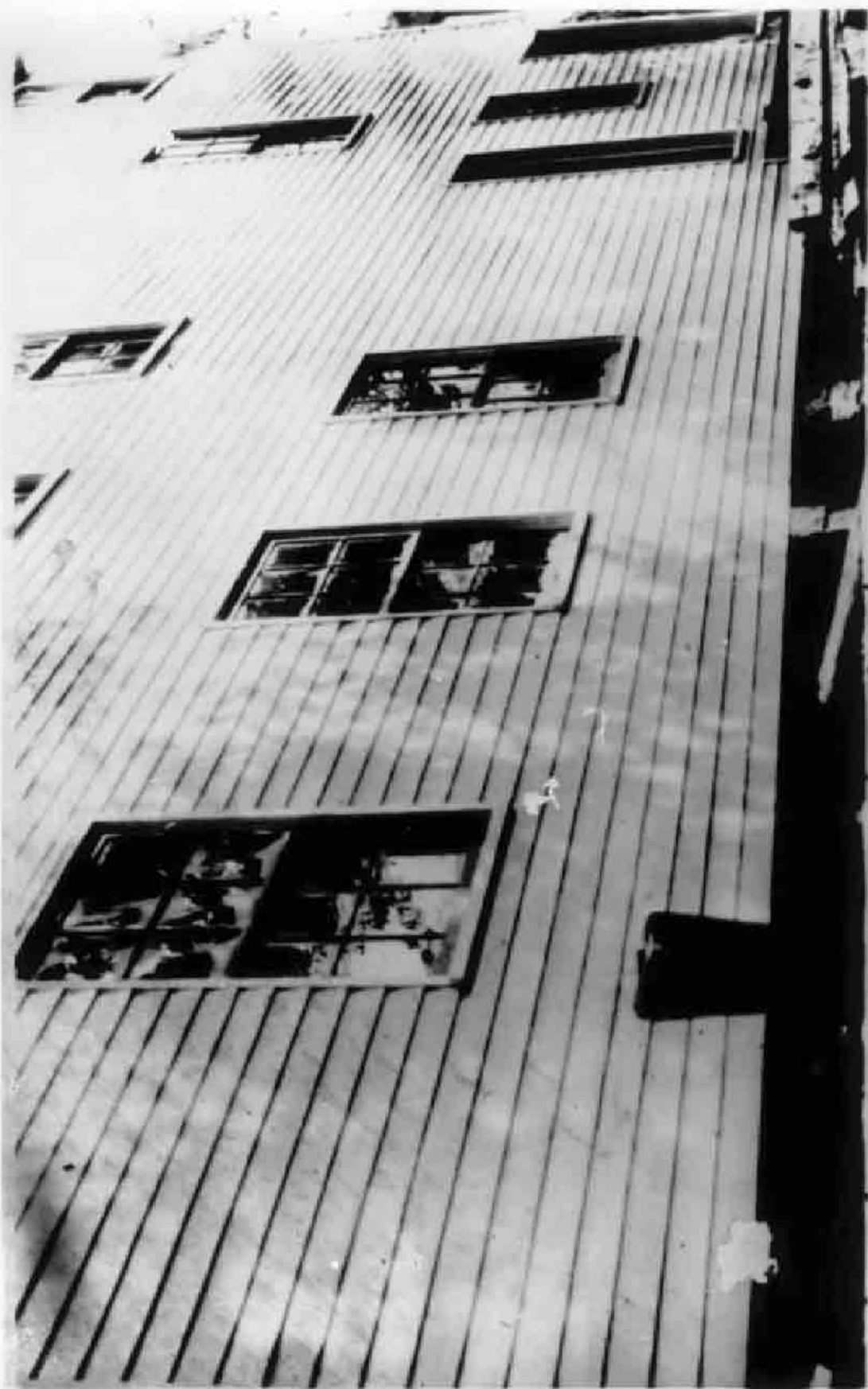


Plate VIII.

"View on River Side - Looking Back".

Photograph by Unknown Photographer During the
Restoration of the Building. c. 1928-1929.



Plate IX.

"Porch to be Rebuilt All Across Front Here".
Photograph by Unknown Photographer During the
Restoration of the Building. c. 1928.

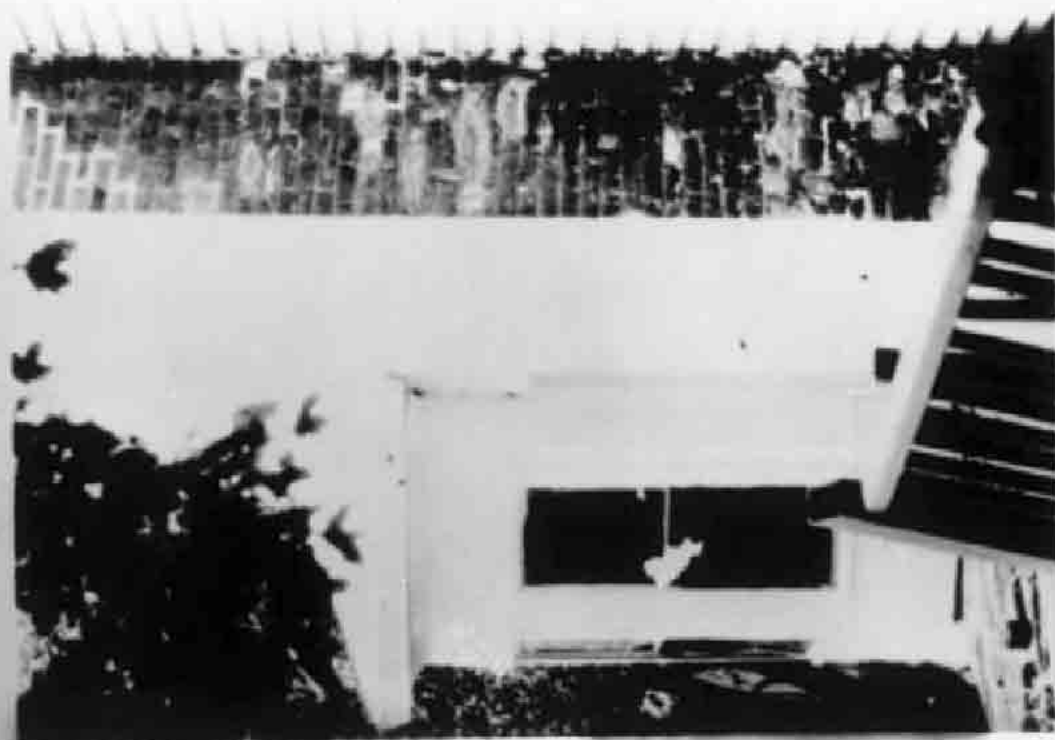
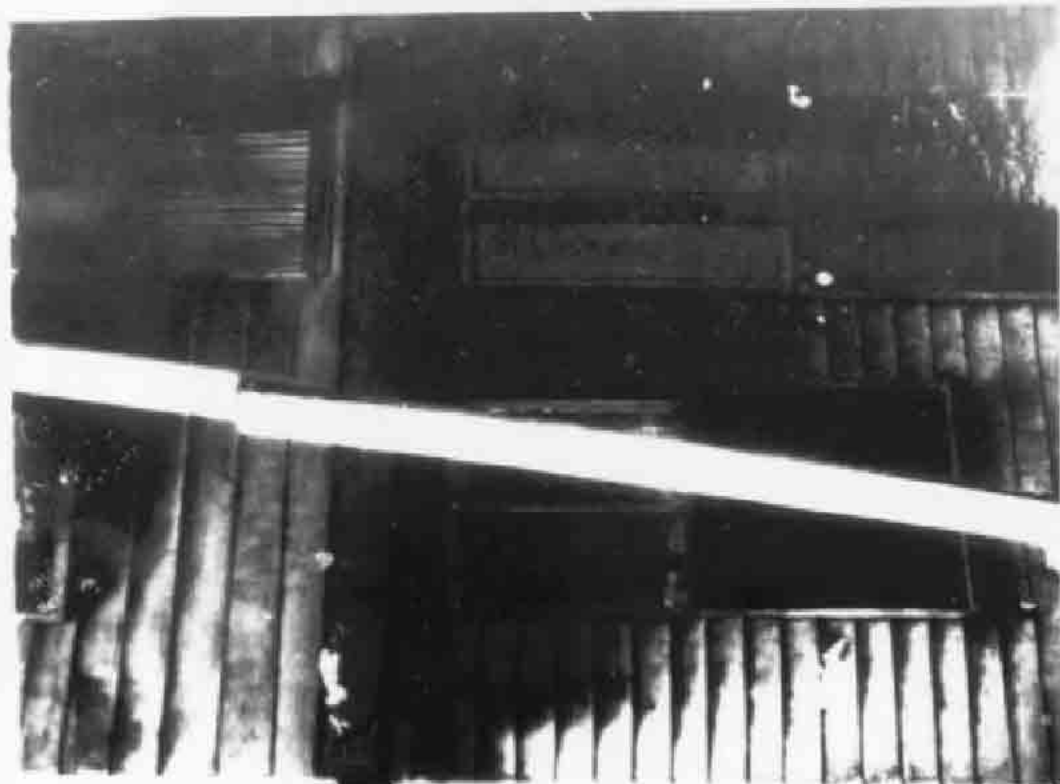


Plate X.

"View on River Side. Old Kitchen Entrance - Window into
Old Dining Room".

Photograph by Unknown Photographer During the
Restoration. c. 1928-1929.

Notes on the foundation

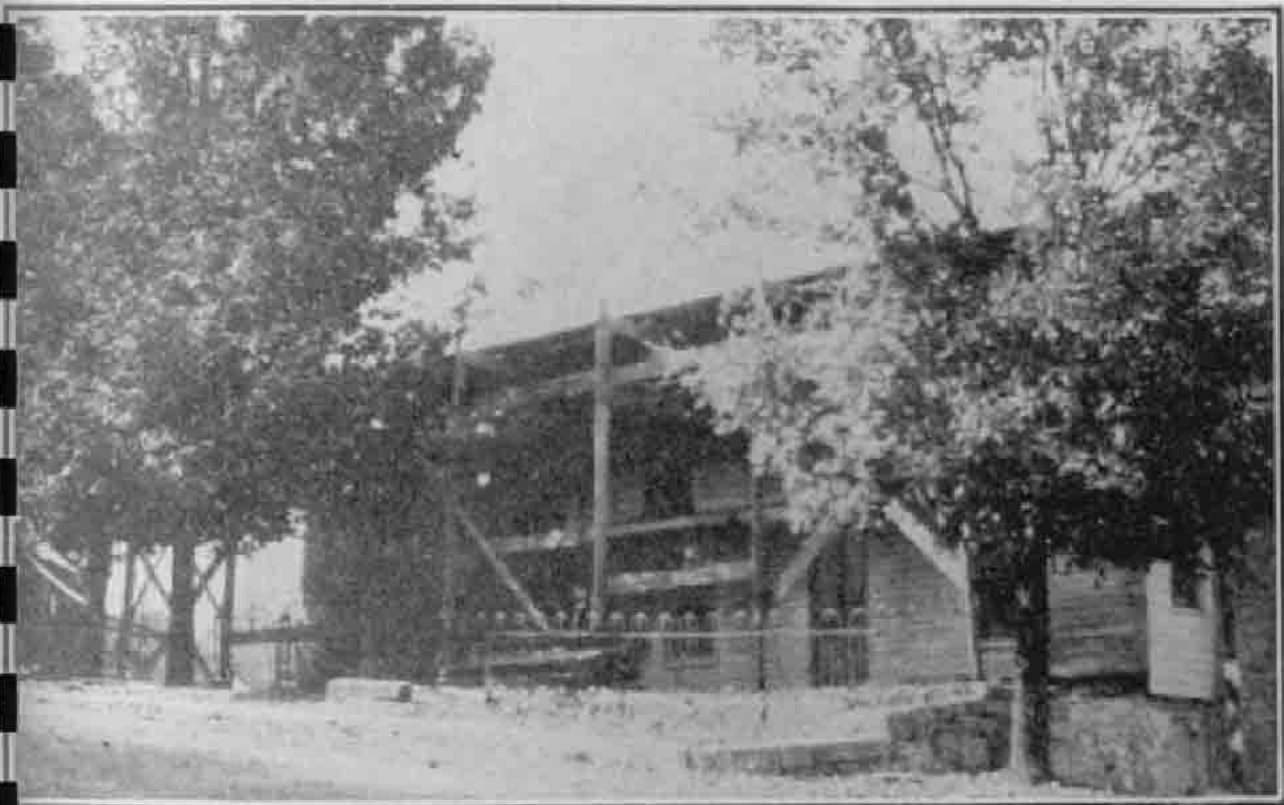


Plate XI.

"Grant's Headquarters Donelson Battle. Being Repaired".

From a Photograph in John Uri Lloyd's

Felix Moses - The Beloved Jew of Stringtown on the Pike. c. 1928.



GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS DONELSON BATTLE. BEING REPAIRED

Plate XII.

"Hobing House, The First Window, Lower Right, is the Room Occupied
by General Buckner at the Time of Surrender to General Grant".

Files, Fort Donelson National Military Park. c. 1949-1950.

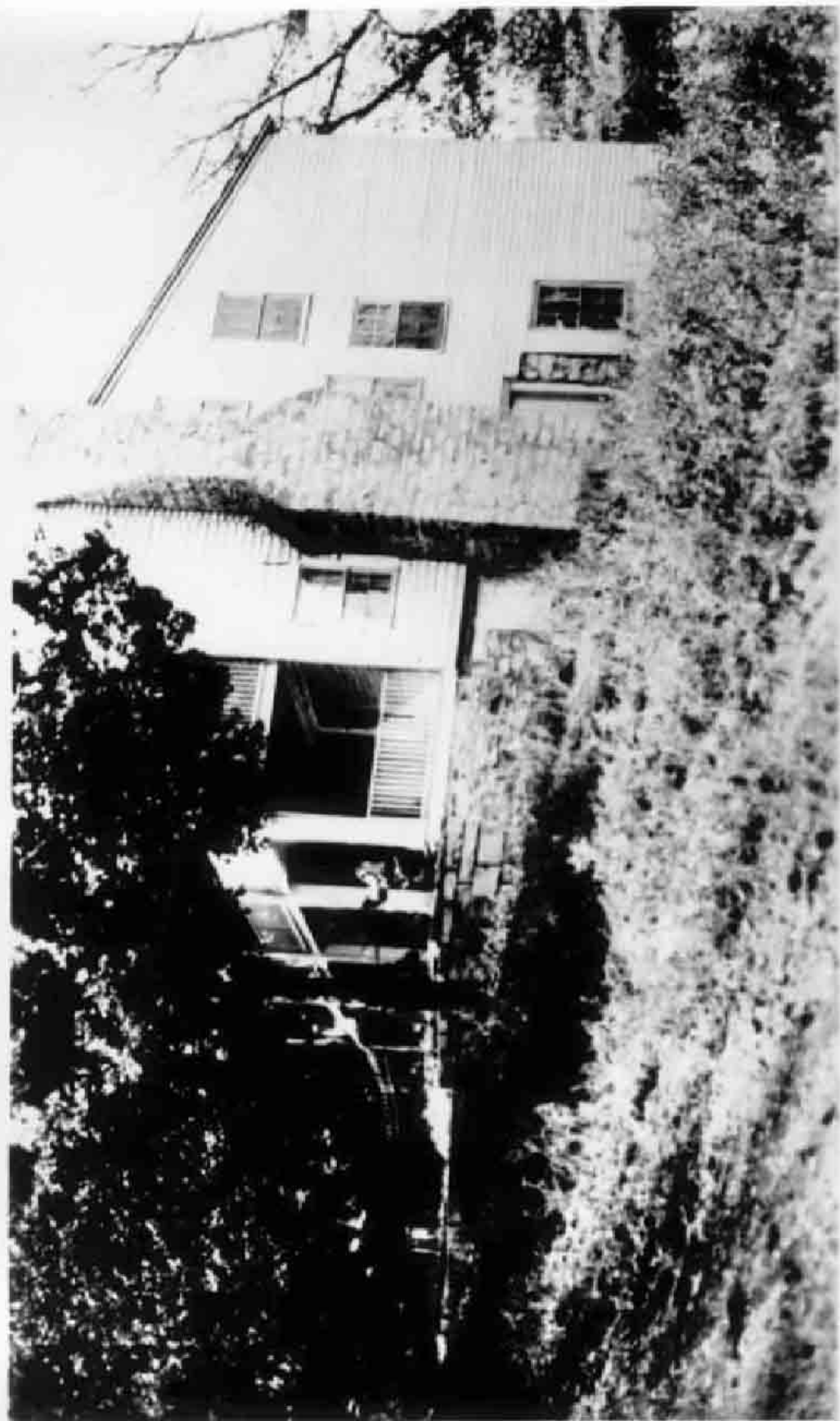


Plate XIII.

"House in Dover, Tenn., in which Buckner Surrendered to Grant".
Appears in Regional Historian Roy E. Appleson's Report to Regional
Director May 22-23, 1948.



Plate XIV.

"East View of the Dover Hotel, Dover, Tennessee".

Photograph by Van Higgins. c. 1957.

