

## A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

The following early marriages of Eagleville and surrounding communities were published in area newspapers and were found in scrapbooks belonging to Mrs. Ruth Sharber. Ruth was the daughter of James Bell "Jim" and Mary Gertrude Elmore Taylor. She married Leslie Sharber and lived on Versailles Road at the time of her death. Ruth was a telephone operator in the old "Bank of Eagleville" building for fifteen years.

**1906** - One among the very pretty home weddings of the season was solemnized at the home of the bride's father, Harden Jackson, at Rover on Christmas Day, when Miss May Jackson of Rover and Frank Redmon of Eagleville were married. Rev. J. D. Smith performed the ceremony. The affair was of rather a quiet nature, but was witnessed by a number of invited relatives and friends of the contracting parties. Mrs. Redmon was handsomely gowned in a brown tailor-made suit, combined with Irish lace. Following the congratulations, the wedding party was driven to the home of the groom at Eagleville, where a handsome reception was given them. The house was attractively arranged for the occasion. A delightful menu of five courses was served at a table, which was of unusual pictorial loveliness. Mr. and Mrs. Redmon received a large collection of bridal presents.

**1907** - The most beautiful wedding of the season and one of much surprise to many was that of Miss May Shoemaker to Cleveland Ralston which was solemnized on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 18 at 3 o'clock at the home of the bride, near Eagleville.

Rev. J. N. Holt, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, performed the impressive and beautiful betrothal service in the presence of a limited number of friends, including immediate connections. The attendants were Jasper Smotherman and Miss Blanche Windrow, Jesse Morgan and Miss Myrtle Ralston.

The bride, who is extremely young, was strikingly girlish and winsome in her wedding dress of white, with hat and gloves to match.

Miss Windrow wore a beautiful suit of white, while Miss Ralston, who is a cousin of the groom, wore a lovely combination suit of blue and white.

Miss Shoemaker is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Shoemaker, and is a young lady of many intellectual attainments and the happy possessor of numerous

personal charms.

Mr. Ralston is a young man of most affable manners and a personality, which is at once admired and trusted.

Immediately after the ceremony the bridal party left for the home of the groom's mother, Mrs. Dub Ralston, near Puckett, where a reception was tendered them.

A pretty and useful display of wedding gifts attested the worth and popularity of the happy pair and the announcement of their marriage is the occasion of congratulations from a wide circle of friends.

**1907** - A wedding of much interest to the Rockvale and Eagleville communities was that of Nathaniel Brown to Mrs. Linnie Maxwell, the ceremony being said at the home of the bride at Rockvale. Rev. Jas. Smith officiated, with Miss Effie Batey at the piano, rendering Lohengrin's wedding march as the bridal party entered the parlors, which were bright with floral decorations, crimson and pink geranium abloom, adding touches of color to the foliage plants.

The attendants, Miss Katherine Love and Q. M. Bond, Miss Bertha Lamb and Henry Christopher; preceded the bride and groom and stood to the right and left during the ceremony. The bride is a very charming and attractive woman.

A pretty and useful display of wedding remembrances attested the worth and popularity of these two people. Mr. and Mrs. Brown left on the late afternoon train for a short stay with relatives at Normandy, followed by a few days stay in Nashville, after which they will be at home at the groom's residence at Rockvale.

**1907** - D. H. Hughes and Miss Dovie Demumbrane will marry tomorrow at four o'clock at the home of the bride at College Grove.

**1908** - On last Sunday evening at three o'clock, Mr. Bryant E. Landis, of Longview and Miss Dean McLain were quietly solemnly united in marriage by Rev. Hudgins. The ceremony-taking place at Keys Chapel Church on the old Midland and Shelbyville dirt road 2 ½ miles south of Midland.

Mr. Landis is a popular young man and comes from one of the best families of Bedford County, while Mrs. Landis is the daughter of Rev. B. A. McLain, a prominent Baptist minister. They are residing in the Midland vicinity. She is a beautiful and an industrious young lady, one fit to make a king a wife, and

## Early Marriages of Eagleville And Surrounding Communities

I am sure they have the best wishes of their many friends and kindred, and especially of the one who pens these lines.

**1908** - A beautiful and impressive ceremony was the marriage of Miss Cora Elizabeth Lamb to Mr. Jimmie D. Brannon, at the home of the bride's parents at Versailles Sunday afternoon at three thirty o'clock. Only relatives and close friends witnessed the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. J. N. Holt.

The attendants were Misses Fannie Powers and Hardy Lamb, Messrs Jim Jones, of Caney Spring and Grover Brannon.

The bride is a beautiful and charming young woman, and has many friends here and was becomingly attired in a brown cloth suit with a white satin blouse and hat to match. The groom is a young man of sterling ability and integrity and stands high in the community in which he lives. A handsome collection of presents was received. Mr. and Mrs. Brannon will make their home with Mr. and Mrs. John Brannon, parents of the groom.

**1908** - A quiet but very surprising wedding took place here the first Sunday, the fortunate ones being Aubrey Westbrooks of Fruit Valley and Miss Mollie Ralston of this place. The writer wishes for them much happiness and may there just be clouds enough in their lives to make the sunshine beautiful.

**1909** - Miss Annie Rowland and Mr. Ed Vaughn were quietly married last Sunday afternoon at four o'clock at the home of the bride's father, Mr. L. P. Rowland, at Concord, in the presence of a few friends, Rev. J. W. Swann officiating.

**1909** - Oscar Marshall and Miss Carrie Drye was quietly united in the holy bonds of matrimony, July 4<sup>th</sup> at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Drye. Rev. J. N. Holt officiated. After the marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall left for the groom's brothers' where a delightful supper awaited them. Several useful gifts were presented them.

**1909** - A marriage of much interest was that of Miss Mattie Smith and Mr. Acklen Beesley, which took place Wednesday afternoon, September fifteenth, at five o'clock, at the home of the bride's parents, Rev. and Mrs. James D. Smith, at Eagleville, the father of the bride officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Beesley will make their future home in this city.

**1909** - We had quite a surprise wedding in our community on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the contracting parties being Horace Scott and Miss Allie May Manire. We wish for them a long and

happy married life.

**1909** - Irvin Sanders of this city and Miss Rosie Moon, of Eagleville, were united in marriage Sunday night by Elder W. L. Logan. There was objection by the young lady's parents to the marriage, so the gallant lover stole her from her home and hurried to this city. The ceremony was performed but a few minutes before the father and a brother appeared, having made the trip in an auto. The young lady is the daughter of Dr. J. R. Moon, a prominent physician at Eagleville and is esteemed by a large circle of friends. The bride-groom is an energetic young man.

**1909** - A wedding of much social interest was that of Miss Marguerite Locridge and Mr. James O. Neelly, which took place at the home of the bride's father, G. F. Locridge, near Allisona, Wednesday afternoon, December twenty-third, Rev. J. N. Holt officiating. Only a few friends and relatives were invited to witness the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Neelly left immediately for the home of the groom's father, Mr. J. R. Neelly, near Eagleville where a wedding supper was tendered them.

**1910** - A marriage of much interest was that of Miss Mattie Hunt of Columbia and Mr. J. W. Love, of Eagleville, which was quietly solemnized at the home of the bride in Columbia last Thursday morning at eleven o'clock, Rev. Cook officiating. The only attendants were Miss Annie Kirkpatrick of Columbia and Mr. Claude McCord of Triune.

The bride was becomingly attired in a blue tailored suit with hat to match. After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Love came through the country in an auto, accompanied by Mr. Freeman.

A beautiful reception was tendered them at the home of the groom's father, Mrs. J. T. Love, at Eagleville. The house was attractively decorated, the nuptial tones, green and white being used effectively. An elaborate menu was served. Mr. and Mrs. Love were assisted in receiving by Misses Katherine, Emma and Mattie Love. A special feature of interest was the cutting of a beautiful bride's cake, the gift of Mrs. W. T. Love, of Murfreesboro. A large collection of handsome gifts attested the popularity of the bride and groom.

**1911** - Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ogilvie announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Myrtle and Dr. C. R. Stem, the wedding to take place at 6 o'clock on

the afternoon of April 26 at the Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill Tennessee.

**1912-** A pretty home wedding was that of Miss Emma Meredith Love and Mr. Albert Frazier Neal of Shelbyville, which was beautifully solemnized at the home of the bride's father, Mr. J. T. Love near Eagleville last Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives, Rev. G. R. Hill officiating.

The only attendants were the maid of honor, Miss Katherine Love and the bride's maid, Miss Eugenia Freeman. Mr. Elgin Thompson, of Shelbyville served as best man.

A beautiful musical program was rendered by Miss Willie Jackson. The house was beautifully decorated for the occasion, the Christmas idea being featured. An arch of green marked the scene of the ceremony, the floral initials L. and N. were used in the arch, in the center of which hung a large bell. Green and red tapers also featured in the decorations.

The bride, who is the attractive daughter of Mr. J. T. Love, was beautiful in a cream cloth dress with crystal trimmings. The maid of honor wore white messaline and bridesmaid was gowned in blue chiffon. Mr. Neal is a prosperous farmer living near Shelbyville.

Misses Mattie and Ora Mai Love were assisted in receiving by Misses Kate and Perry Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal left after the ceremony for their home near Shelbyville, where a handsome reception was tendered them that evening. Five couples accompanied them to Shelbyville. A large number of handsome gifts were received by this popular young couple.

**1912** - Miss Annie Owen and Keathley Rowland of Nashville were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Owen.

**1912 Double Wedding** - A double wedding of much interest to the many friends throughout the community was that of Miss Nora Redmond and Mr. Cliff Ghee and Miss Myrtle Boyce and Mr. Carroll Blanton, which took place Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home of the officiate, Rev. McWhirter, near Eagleville.

**1913** - Miss Eula C. King and Ed S. Ezell were married at Chapel Hill, the ceremony being said by Rev. J. R. Wright. Immediately after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Ezell left for Chattanooga.

**1913 Yeargan-Carlton** - A beautiful home wedding was that of Miss Mary Annah Carlton and Mr. Clinton Edward Yeargan, which was quietly solemnized Wednesday

afternoon at 3 o'clock at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Bettie Carlton. Rev. Paul B. Kern, pastor of the Methodist Church officiated in the presence of a large company of friends and relatives. The attendants were Miss Jane Jackson and Mr. Sam Yeargan, brother of the groom, Miss Lucile Lofton and Mr. Milton Talbert, all of Rockvale. The house was elaborately decorated with beautiful ferns and quantities of fall flowers.

The bride, who is a charming and attractive young woman, was beautiful in her bridal toilet of white. Mr. Yeargan is a splendid young man and is highly esteemed. In fact, he is a model in morals, and is honest and industrious.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Yeargan left for Barfield, where they will visit the groom's family, on their return to Murfreesboro they will reside with the bride's mother, Mrs. Bettie Carlton, on North Spring Street. A large number of handsome and beautiful gifts were received by this popular young couple.

**1913** - Miss Ida Bethel and Mr. L. M. Manire were married here Thursday afternoon in the office of the County Court Clerk, N. L. Clardy and a recently elected Justice of the Peace, officiated.

**1913** - A marriage of interest that occurred at Eagleville last week was that of Miss Jessie Lee Gillespie and Mr. Gifford Cooper, which was solemnized at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. A. P. Elmore.

**1913** - A marriage that came as a surprise to their many friends was that of Miss Ruby Smith of Murfreesboro, who formerly lived here and Roscoe Johns of this place.

**1913** - Miss Ethel Motlow of Lynchburg and Sterling O. Edmonds of this place were united in marriage at the home of the bride's brother at Lynchburg.

**1913** - Miss Bessie Berry and Cliff Little, both of this town, were married in Chattanooga. Rev. A. W. Duncan of that city, officiating.

**1913** - A wedding of much interest here was that of Miss Mary Maud Manier and Sam H. Scott, which took place this week at the home of Rev. J. N. Holt, who officiated. Only a few friends and relatives witnessed the ceremony.

The bride is the oldest daughter of Mrs. Mary Manier and is an accomplished and popular young lady. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Scott and is one of Rutherford's prosperous young farmers.

**1915** - P. M. Fleming and Miss Lottie Ralston of Holt's Corner were married at the

home of the bride, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Jack Holt.

**1915** - A marriage, which is of much interest to a large circle of friends and relatives in Nashville, were the bride has frequently visited her sister, Mrs. S. E. Elliott, was that of Miss Alla Prairie Covington and Mr. Robert Henry Comer of Uniontown, Alabama which was beautifully solemnized Thursday afternoon, January 7 at 3 o'clock, at the bride's home at College Grove. The ceremony was performed by Mr. Holt, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at College Grove, in the presence of relatives and friends. The house was elaborately decorated with evergreens, palms, smilax and stands of flowers. The bride's only attendant was her little niece, Margaret Elliott of Nashville, who served as ring bearer. A large collection of handsome gifts were received. Immediately after the ceremony, the bride and groom left for Nashville, where they will spend several days at the Hermitage Hotel, en route to Birmingham, Ala., where they will visit relatives and where several entertainments are planned in their honor. Mr. and Mrs. Comer will live in Uniontown, Ala., where Mr. Comer is a successful young businessman. Several pre-nuptial affairs were given in College Grove in honor of the bride, who is very popular in her home community.

**1915** - A quiet but pretty wedding was that of Miss Annie Lou Morgan and Mr. T. R. Ralston, which took place at the home of the bride at Eagleville last Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. N. Holt officiated in the presence of only near relatives.

The bride was never lovelier than in her bridal attire of white, and she carried white chrysanthemums. After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Ralston left for Fruit Valley to be guests of Mrs. Robert Reed, who tendered them a beautiful reception.

Many handsome and useful gifts were received by this popular young couple. They will reside at Eagleville.

**1915** - A marriage somewhat out of the ordinary because of the disparity of the ages of the bride and groom was happily consummated on Sunday afternoon when Esquire B. B. Taylor united in the holy bonds of wedlock at his home on the Franklin Road, Miss Willie Haynes, the attractive daughter of Mr. John Haynes of near Salem, to Mr. Frank Taylor, a well-to-do bachelor farmer of the Puckett vicinity. The groom is 58 and his bride, 23.



Reverend J.N. Holt

**1915** - A marriage of much interest was that of Mr. H. G. Jackson, of Eagleville and Miss Ida J. Holt, which was quietly solemnized Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> in the study of the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Dr. J. I. Vance officiated in the presence of a few friends and relatives.

After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson left for Eagleville, where they will reside.

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As you probably have noticed, many of the above marriages were officiated by Reverend Jack Holt, who was a Cumberland Presbyterian Preacher. He was married to Susie Ann Manire, daughter of David Lemuel Jr. and Mary Jane Gleaves Manire. Jack and Susie did not have children of their own but reared a nephew, John D. Smotherman. Reverend Jack Holt preached in Rockvale, Mt. Vernon, Jackson Ridge and Rocky Glade. He lived a short distance off Highway 99 on North Lane. Reverend Holt was born in 1854 and died in 1934.

Thanks to Charles Ralston for sharing the above information with me. Eagleville is very fortunate to have Ralston's Antique Store, where a lot of the early history of Eagleville is exhibited. Charles is doing a wonderful job preserving our heritage, especially the pictures of the past, he has collected. Thanks Charles, we appreciate you.