

A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

Roads of Eagleville

The following information for this article was researched by Don McCord and printed in the history of "Eagleville" published in 2006.*

The first two roads in Eagleville were the road from Nashville to Shelbyville and a road from Columbia to Versailles, called The Old Columbia Road. The Eagleville to Nashville road has been changed three times in the history of this small community. The location of the first road was near a big cedar tree on the McCord property, and at the time of the civil war, soldiers were known to have camped there. Bullets and other civil war relics have been found in the area with metal detectors. From that location, the road veered east and went behind the house on the next hill (formerly Russell property). West, the road followed the property line to New Town (subdivision). Off of this road at one time was a road following the McCord-Crosslin property line east across the creek following the McCord- Ralston property line to Swamp Road, joining it at the first 90-degree curve. This road was not

in use in my lifetime but the physical existence can be seen in places.

The second road went by the front of W. P. McCord's house straight up the hill following the property line. Evidence of this road still exists on the McCord property. The early road crossed the Harpeth River east of its present crossing. The third road, the present Hwy 41A N was completed in the early 1940's.

The road from Eagleville to Shelbyville, known as the Eagleville, Unionville, Shelbyville Turnpike, originally went to the west side of the Chesley Williams house and behind the houses that are on the west side of Highway 41A-S. By the time the road got to Arch Bell's farm before crossing Kelly's Creek, the old road was approximately a quarter of a mile west of the present road. I have been told that this road has changed locations several times. In the early years of Eagleville there was a road that went off to the right up the hill near the Owen Cemetery and past Mars Hill Cemetery, over to Cheatham

Springs Road.

The Old Columbia Road came over the hill from the present Chapel Hill Road to an area near the Mt. Vernon Road. It is believed that part of the Mt. Vernon Road is a portion of the old Columbia Road. Leroy Murray lived on Mt Vernon Road and Murray Lane was part of the old Columbia Road at one time. It cut across to Mt Pleasant Road in the vicinity of the intersection with Bunker Hill Road; there is a lane to the west from that intersection. Part of the Columbia Road may have been the lane going to the Bud Dalton house. At 10987 Bunker Hill Road, there is a lane on the north side that also could be where the old Columbia Road could have turned off. The 1904 rural free delivery map shows a road continuing east where the Mt Vernon Road turns to the north and slowly turning northward coming out on the Mt. Pleasant Road at property owned by William Puckett (where the Mt. Pleasant Road turns east toward Versailles). Note: the location of parts of the Mt. Pleasant Road may also have

changed. By 1907 this last part of the old Columbia Road had disappeared and the present Bunker Hill Road was in existence. It is said that there was an "Inn" on the old Columbia Road between where it left the Bunker Hill Road and before joining the Mt. Pleasant Road; the exact location is unknown. The first rural free delivery route map of Eagleville shows this road. It was located about 0.6 miles north of the intersection of Bunker Hill Road and Bunker Hill Lane. In the early 1900's there was a church located on the north side of this intersection.

The 1904 rural free delivery map also shows a road starting near the head of the Harpeth River and going in a southeasterly direction crossing Mt. Vernon Road 0.8 miles south of Hwy 99, continuing southeast crossing the old Columbia road 1.8 miles from its start on Hwy 99 and crossing the Bedford county line near the above mentioned Bunker Hill Church continuing in a southeasterly direction into Bedford county. This road ended at Rover. The 1907 rural



Early picture of Eagleville From South to North: First building on right was the old Crosslin Grocery Store building located near the present sight of Eagleville Florist. First building on left is the old Riley Wheeler Store. It was later a gift shop and was a pool room at the time of the 1952 fire.

free delivery map shows this road has disappeared. In 1907 the Bunker Hill Road and Bunker Hill Lane are the same as at the present time.

In the early 1900's there were also roads connecting Floyd Road and Greenwood Road. One road went from J. H. Kelly's farm north to Floyd Road. Another road went from the Hughes' farm to the intersection of Floyd Road and Cheatham Springs Road; this road had disappeared by 1907. In the early 1900s the location of Floyd Road near Cheatham Springs Road was different from what it is today.

David Dyer, a former Eagleville resident, tells that at one time there was a road that went through the hollow west of his home place on Cheatham Springs Road to the Horton Highway. Not sure that this was ever a public road. Although in 1900 Cheatham Springs Road did not connect to Floyd Road.

At one time the road to Murfreesboro went out Swamp Road, on to Little Rock Road to Jackson Ridge Road. Swamp

Road did not extend beyond Little Rock Road to North Lane in the early 1900s. The present road to Murfreesboro, Highway 99, was present at the time but it was a longer route.

The 1904 rural free delivery map and the 1878 DeBeer's map show no road for Webb or Elmore Road. On the 1907 rural free delivery map, Webb Road is shown as starting just north of the Rocky Glade Road on Hwy 99 and going in a southwesterly direction across the Harpeth River continuing about 0.5 miles before turning west and going to Hwy 31A. In 1907 Elmore Road was not present on the map.

At one time George Lowe, who lived north of Eagleville, was the overseer of the roads. He would use dynamite to shatter the rock somewhere nearby; then some of the men of the community would break them up to egg size using donut shaped hammers or one of the sledgehammer shapes. Mr. Lowe's farm hands would haul them in horse drawn wagons that had 2 by 4s in the bottom of the bed that could be moved to dump the

rock. They were dumped in cubic foot piles over the road. Mr. Lowe would then smooth them out and determine how many cubic feet had been dumped and pay 3 cents per cubic foot for them. Until they settled, it was rough on buggies, the horse's hooves and riders. If the road was rocky to begin with, there was not any settling anyway so it remained rough.

Tollgate Roads

There was a tollgate* south of Eagleville on the Eagleville-Unionville Turnpike (Hwy 41A), located near the Bedford - Rutherford County line. At one time Tom Rucker lived there and was the gatekeeper.

Going north on the road to Nashville (41 A N.) there was a tollgate just before arriving at the George K. Lowe farm. The Glymps kept that gate at one time.

West of Eagleville on the Eagleville-Allisona Turnpike there was a tollgate near the stream at the foot of Wallace Hill where John Taylor (now the Bobby Jarrell family) lived. At one time Mr.

Hutcherson was the gatekeeper. Traveling east, toward Murfreesboro, a tollgate was located at Puckett's Store (on Hwy. 99).

*A tollgate was not a gate, but a pole that was attached at one end and lowered across the road to close it. The purpose was to collect a fee for the privilege of using the road. The family who lived in the toll-house was the gatekeeper and collected the fee. Access to toll roads was free during the night as the tollgates were opened, but the gates were closed about 6 am each morning. Tolls were collected during the day and the gates were again raised about 9 pm. The gates were placed about 5 miles apart.

*The 525-page "Eagleville" history book containing family and additional information on the community of Eagleville and surround areas was published in 2006 and still available. To order please write or call Don McCord, 475 N. Main St., Eagleville, TN 37060 - Telephone 615-274-2859. They may also be purchased at Ralston's Antique's or the Eagleville Drug Center.



Eagleville, North to South - First Building on the left, Crosslin Supply Co. and on the right the four tall buildings are (R to L) Ira Hay Grocery Store, People's Bank Building, Green Hay's Hardware Store, and the Bank of Eagleville (Pictures made in the late 30's or early 40's when the road of rock and dirt was replaced with concrete and the side walks were added.)