

A Step Back in Time

By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

WEATHER IN ROVER DURING THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS – 1862

Newton Foote Neal, who was a resident of the Rover area, wrote the following weather recording for the 12 days of Christmas. Mr. Neal was born in 1791 and died in 1874 and was a soldier in the War of 1812. He married Elizabeth Jane Moore, and they were the great grandparents of the late Mai Katherine Neal Smotherman, who lived near Eagleville.

1862

Christmas Days and Old Christmas

- Dec 25 1st Day Warm and Cloudy Little of the sun appears
- 26 2nd Day Warm and rain commenced 9| o'clock in the night and rained nearly all night
- 27 3 Day Warm and cloudy with high wind in the morning and rain in the evening frosted in the night
- 28 4 Day Fair and Warm
- 29 5 Day Fair and Warm and warm wind
- 30 6 Day Cloudy and rainy in the morning Cold in the evening
- 31 7 Day Cold and windy The day of the Murferber Battle *

- Jan 1st 1863 8 Day Fair and Frosty
- 2d 8 Day Fair and Pleasant **
- 3d 9 Day Rainy all day slow rain
- 4 10 Day Fair and Pleasant
- 5 11 Day Fair and Pleasant
- 6 12 Day Fair

* The Battle of Stones River was fought from December 31, 1862 to January 2, 1863 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

** The writer apparently duplicated Day 8 on January 2nd. Thus he recorded actually recorded the weather for 13 days. The Twelve Days of Christmas and the associated evenings of those twelve days (Twelve-tide) are the festive days beginning the evening of Christmas Day (December 25th) through the morning of Epiphany (January 6th). The associated evenings of the twelve days begin on the evening before the specified day. Thus, the first night of Christmas is December 25-26, and the twelfth night is January 5-6. This period is also known as Christmastide.