

Kenton Tennessee History: As I remember and heard

By

Mrs. Willie J. Cole Moore

Years ago, prior to 1905 several black families' lives in what was the Long House located on the street where First Baptist Church was formerly located. Families living in the Long House as I remember hearing my parents say were Bob and Ida Hunt parents of the late Manor Hunt and Mrs. Nora Scates of St. Louis, Mo. William and Sophia Col, Laura Williams, Robert and Henrietta Williams grandparents of James Williams, Louise and Ellause Cole were born on what is now 105 Cole St. also are the rest of the Cole children, other families lived at Long House until they could build or buy a house. The lot at 105 Cole St. cost \$50.00 and was a wedding gift William and Sophia Cole from Laura Williams, late mother of William Cole, the house was built by Dan Gant, grandfather of Mrs. Clara Akins he had one arm but was a good carpenter. The Coles lived at this address until 1944 when William Cole retired from the Shatz Produce House with forty years of service. The lot at 305 S. Poplar St. was given to him by the Shatz Co. Guy Exton of Dyer, Tn built the house. The lot was formerly owned by Sue Ennix, owner of the Kenton Hotel. Gilhert Sinclair, grandmother of A.W. Lovelace had a strawberry patch there.

Kenton black homeowners were:

Robert Hunt, William C. Cole, John Mitchell, Haywood Johns, Mollie Taylor, Robert Williams, Gracie Walls, Jack Goodman, George Griffin,

Sal Trice, Edward Calhoun, Emmel Jackson, John Jackson, Ida Wilson, Jim Wilson, Brown Eskew, B. Eskew, Hannah Thompson, Robert & Henrietta Williams, Tom Elem, Army Bates, Harrison Webb, Charlie Cason, Bill Mc Derman, Gilbert Sinclair, Winnie Hill, Henry Akins, Frank Watson, Isaiah Williams, J.T. Lane, Dunk Atkins, Jim Brown, Milton Douis, Alan Dold, Louis Thompson, Willie McGee, Israel Taylor, and Alex Lett.

Property now owned by:

William C. Cole ---- The Cole Family 305 S. Poplar St.

Robert Hunt --- Unknown

John Mitchell Cole St. --- William Edmonds

John Mitchell's Café --- Bobby Bardwell

Haywood Johns --- Ronnie Simpson

Haywood Johns --- Clasper Warren

Mollie Taylor --- James Swift

Israel Taylor --- Geraldine Belmont

Robert Williams --- L.M. Bardwell

Alex Lett --- Emily Edmonds

Gracie Walls --- William Edmonds, Poplar St., 308 & 310

Jack Goodman --- Mrs. Harris, Tilghman St.

George Griffin --- Shellie Akins

Sol Trice --- Unknown Hall St.

Masonie Hall --- Greer Chapel

Edward Calhaun --- Carl Calhaun

Emmet Jackson --- Bobbie Bardwell's daughter

John Jackson --- Mamie Young's son

Ida Wilson --- Unknown

Jim Wilson --- Melvin & Ann Brooks

Brown Eskew --- Unknown

Basic Eskew --- Unknown

Hannah Thompson --- John L. Mitchell

Tom Elem --- Unknown

Army Bates --- Unknown

Harrison Webb --- Unknown

Charlie Cason --- Sam Young

Bill McDerman --- Clara Akins (burned)

Annie L. Watson --- Her Children

Winnie Hill --- Mrs. Nannie M. Banks

Alan Dodd and Henry Akins --- Charlie White

Frank Watson --- Thelma Eskew

Isaiah Williams --- Charlie White

J.T. Lane --- William Edmonds Tilghman St.

Dunk Atkins --- Unknown

Milton Davis --- Unknown

Louis Thompson --- Behind St. Paul Unknown

Willie McBee --- Rev. Henry M. Banks

Jake Mosley --- Annie & R.B. Haynes

William C. Cole --- Cole St. Harold Banks

Jim Brown --- Mrs. Susie Ervin

Cordelia Edmond Beatrix St --- Unknown

Frank Jones --- Unknown

Dan Gant --- Unknown

Cordelia Edmond worked for the Tom Wade family. She is the grandmother of Rev. Willie Roach, Mrs. Ann Brooks, and Ms. Geraldine Grice. She died in St. Paul at a service.

Della Maze, a St. Paul member fell dead at the M & O Railroad Station.

Alonzo Walls, husband of Gracie Walls and father of Elnara and Bevma Walls, was burned alive in Arkansas. Winnie Hill dies on M&O Railroad near the station.

The Polls for voting was where Wade's Gin is located.

Our School had two teachers, for first four grades, for the four higher grades we had no lights, coal stoves, the children did the janitor work. When the new school was built we had lights no water. We had coat closets and outside toilets.

"We've come this far by faith leaning on the Lord."

Kenton was a quiet town, but not too many criminal offences. Jay Bird was the black area around Greer Chapel. Aszoo was the black area north on Beatrix.

Teachers who taught for Kenton

Prof Ball was my father's teacher, J.F. & Maggie Lane, Charlie Cole, Mariah Dodson, Katie Bell Parker, Prof George Weddles, Prof William C. Bryant & wife, Prof. R.J. Butler, Mrs. Mattie Munds, Mrs. Coatie, Prof. Columbus Farris, Prof. James Elrod, Shellie Cole, Emmerson Shynne, Manor B. Akins, and Katherine Mitchell.

Bar-be-que

The men would dig a pit, put poles across and coat a whole hog, or goat. They would coat all night in Bogle's field north on Beatrix St.

Kenton also had a Baseball team. All are deceased.

William C. Cole, Manor Hunt, Charlie Johns, Earl Thompson, Tommy Goodman, Boast Bobbit, Will Elem, Robert Edmond, Alvin Edmond, W.L. Cole, Elmer Hunt, James Williams, Fred McLia, James McLia, and Dallas Akins.

This is all I can think of. Hope you have some idea of Kenton, a nice little town.