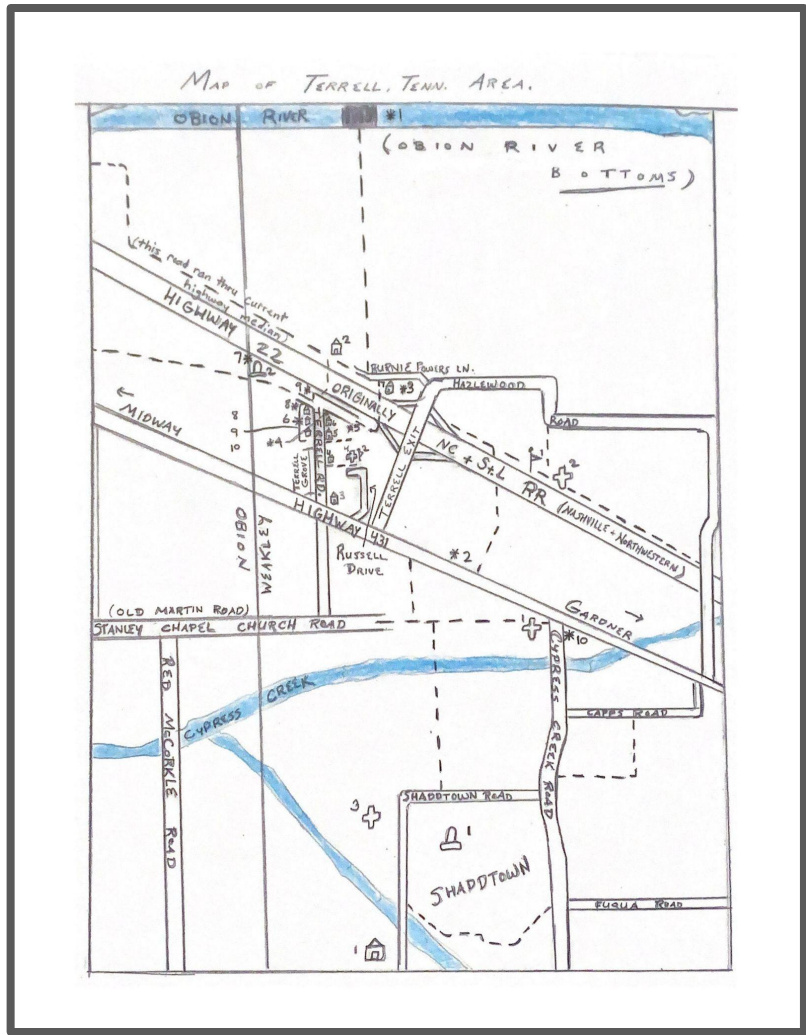
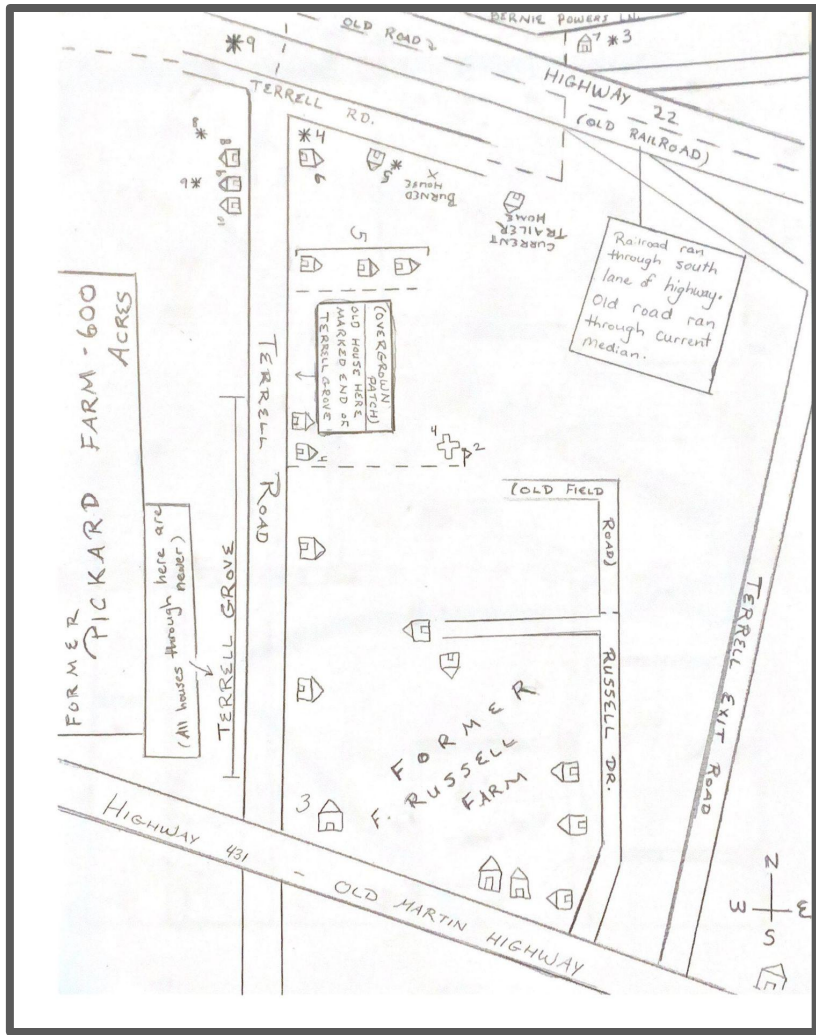




History of the Terrell Community

WCHGS
November 2021

*Jake Underwood
Samantha Fields*



1849-1853 - Walkers -

First Family in the Terrell Area

In 1848 or 1849, Lacey R. Walker purchased 500 acres on the Weakley-Obion County border. Part of this land was in Obion County. Although he was not living here in 1850, his daughter Mary Lee was born on this farm on February 1st (or 8th), 1853.

1849 District No. 3

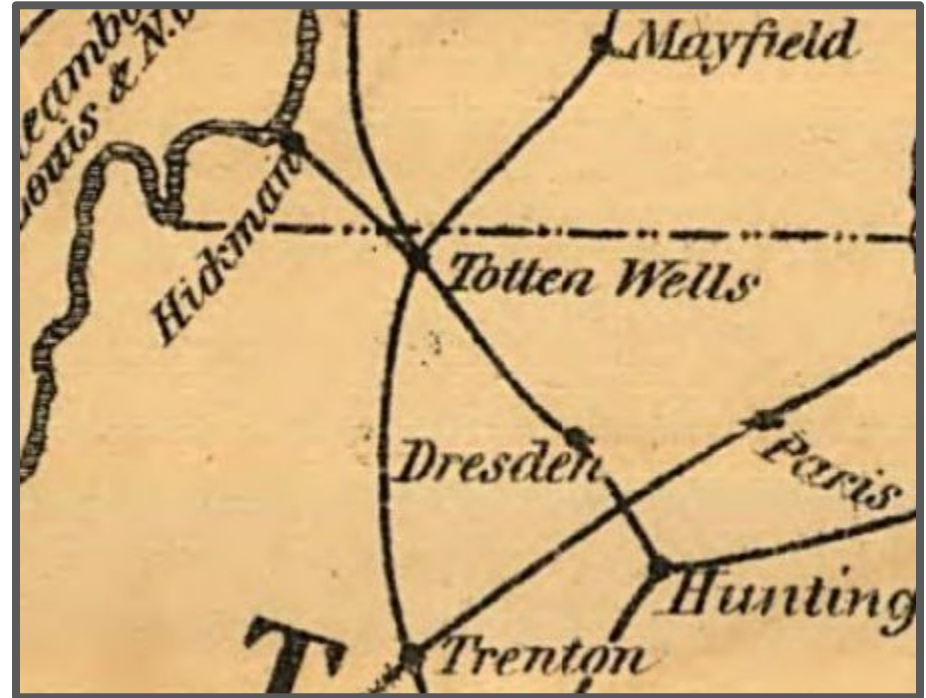
	Land	value	tax	value	other	total
Walker L. R.	500	230				1

1849 Tax Record for L. R. Walker

**1850s - Hickman and Obion
Railroad, Nashville and
Northwestern Railroad**

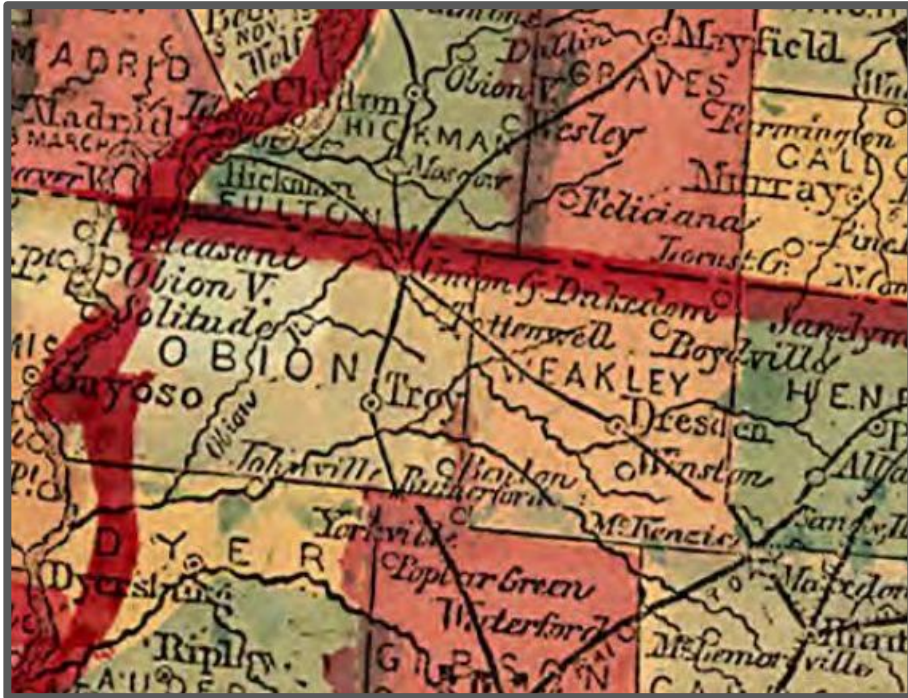
In 1852, the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad was chartered by the Tennessee State Legislature. This railroad was projected to be laid from Nashville, TN, to Hickman, KY - 170 miles in length.

The Hickman-Obion Railroad from Hickman to Union City was chartered on March 9th, 1854. This track was laid soon after, and then later on extended to McKenzie. On November 7th, 1855, the Hickman and Obion Railroad was leased to the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company for the next one thousand years. The first train through what would become Terrell was not until 1866. The earliest stops on this route included Union City, Raccoon, and Gardner.



Israel Andrews' 1857 USA Railroad Map - showing the projected Nashville and Northwestern Railroad (route was altered later on, and part of it had already been constructed at this time.)

**1860s - Nashville and
Northwestern Railroad**



OUR TRIP OVER THE NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD.

“But the Louisville train has come and gone, and so away we go to Gleason, and then on to Dresden, the capital of Weakley county, and a pleasant looking town at that. From this [point] on, the soil becomes better and better, and the towns and country residences wear a more pleasant appearance. Again we move on, stopping at Ralston, Gardiner and Raccoon, to Union City, in Obion county, where the Mobile and Ohio crosses the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad, and from which place the New Orleans and Ohio railroad runs to Paducah, at the mouth of the Tennessee. These last named towns are all new, and the latter promises much for the future, as a railroad point.”

Nashville Press and Times - October 30th, 1867

*H. H. Lloyd & Co. 1860 Map showing the completed railway from
McKenzie to Hickman*

**1860s-1870s - Gardner's Station and
Raccoon Town**

Gardner's Station

The settlement of Gardner existed long before Terrell came into being. In 1830, a post office was established at Gardnersville, about one mile north of current Gardner. When the Nashville and Northwestern was laid, Col. John Almus Gardner, founder of the N&NW RR Company, gave land for a community and station adjoining the railroad. This became Gardner's Station, which was shortened to Gardner in 1882.

Raccoon Town

Raccoon, also known as Raccoon Town, was an early stop on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. The only reference indicating its existence in the 1867 account of the N&NW RR. Railroad maps of the late 1800s show no sign of this stop, nor was it listed on an 1873 time schedule. It was located directly north of where the Terrell Family Cemetery is located, adjoining the new Martin highway.

1870s - Terrell Family

Following the consolidation of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company and the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad Company in 1872, the line became known as the Nashville and Chattanooga Railway. This later became the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis R. R., although the line never reached St. Louis.

On January 18th, 1870, Mary L. Walker was married to Joseph N. Terrell. When the 1870 census was taken, they were living together with Mary's parents as domestic servants. They had four children over the next 15 years: Arthur Isaac, James Cress, Ross F., and Maude Dave. Joseph N. raised and dealt stock.

In 1879, Lacey R. Walker's widow sold his remaining estate to Joseph and Mary Terrell. This became the land on which the Terrell community is situated.

1870s - Shadd Town

According to family stories, following the Civil War, Col. John A. Gardner gave (or rather, sold) 1,500 acres to his former slave Levi Shadd. On these 1,500 acres, Shadd and the rest of Gardner's freed slaves established a settlement known as Shadd Town, about two miles south of Terrell.

Today, little remains of this former community. There was said to have been a church here at one time, but it was evidently gone by 1950, and probably much earlier than that. The Shaddtown Cemetery is the only lasting monument of the settlement. Several of Terrell Grove's residents are buried here. It was last used in the 1970s.

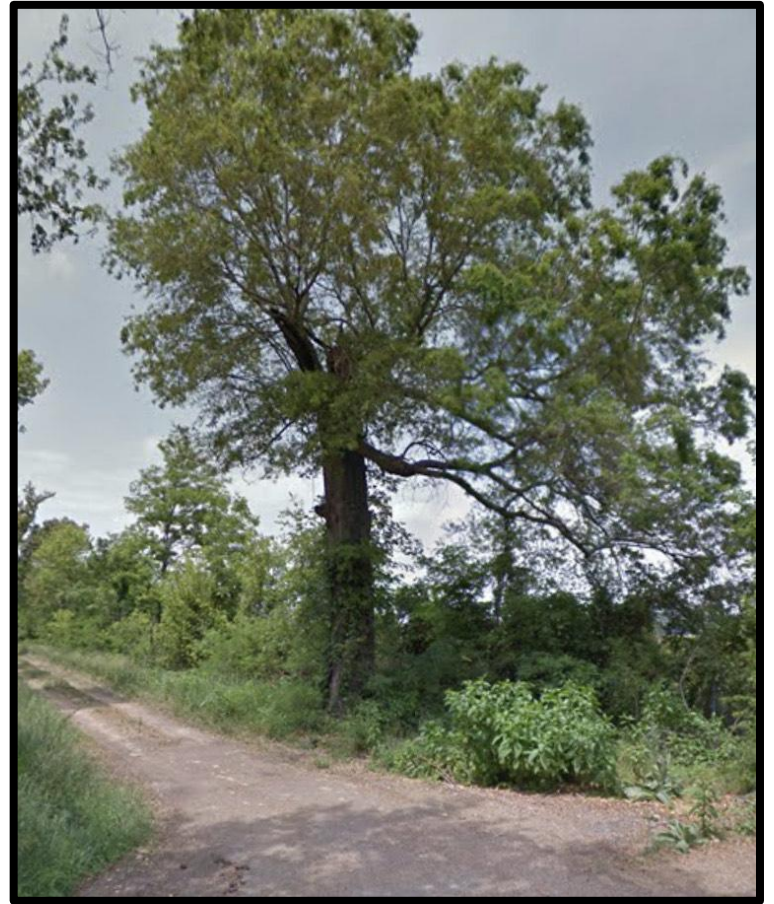


Shaddtown Cemetery - photo by Mike Rea

1880s - Railroad Station at Terrell

By the late 1880s, Terrell (Terrell Station) had become a prosperous community situated on the NC&StL RR. At some point in this time frame, a railroad stop was established here. This was a frame depot which had a waiting room and a porch facing the railroad.

In August of 1889, a post office was set up at Terrell. The first postmaster was Joseph N. Terrell. He served in this position for four years and was then followed by Samuel Wescoat.



Former Site of the Terrell Depot

1890s - School and Church

On December 6th, 1893, John T. Farmer and his wife Rebecca Jane Farmer deeded 0.12 of an acre near their home for a Missionary Baptist Church at Terrell. This church was organized in 1896 under the name Farmer's Baptist Church. By 1916, it had become Northwestern Missionary Baptist. It was relocated to its present location later on.

The Farmer's School was also established around this time. Little is known about it, but it had been closed or consolidated prior to 1916.

This Terrell local column was published in the Tennessean in July 1896.

TERRELL, TENN.

Crop, Social and Other Notes of Interest.

Terrell, Tenn., July 5.—(Special.)—A number of the citizens of Terrell and vicinity visited Union City yesterday to witness the performance of the Athletic and other clubs. They report an enjoyable time and grand performances.

Early corn is needing rain. Late corn is looking well and growing rapidly. The wheat crop, it is supposed, will average about ten bushels per acre. The tobacco crop is improving since the wet weather subsided. A large amount of the tobacco raised last year is still in the possession of the producers. They can't get an offer for it.

Miss Maud Terrell has been quite sick for several days, but is convalescing.

Six-eighths of the voters of this (the Third) district will vote for bimetallism.

The hog cholera is raging here. The farmers are losing more or less daily.



Farmers School 1909

Farmer's School - 1909 - Weakley County TNGenWeb

Early 1900s - Businesses at Terrell

- Tom A. Futtrell owned the first store at Terrell. It was a dry goods store which opened prior to 1900. This was later expanded to include a rolling mill, a sawmill, and a flour mill. He ran this store until his death in 1938.

- David A. "Gus" Brewer ran a store at Terrell as well. His was most likely the second, also established prior to 1900. He was also postmaster twice and later in charge of the station at Terrell.

- In 1910, Terrell had also had a telephone office (Zera McAdoo, operator) and a flour mill ran by Joe M. Porter.

Mitchell M. Brewer also ran a grocery store at Terrell. This was opened in the late 1900s. He ran this store until his death in October 1918.

Terrell also had its own allopathy doctor around 1900. Henry H. Henson practiced in Terrell for around 10 years in the early 1900s.



Walker's Sausage Company, 1949
Advertisement - *from Eric Newton*

John S. Hazlewood ran a blacksmith shop at Terrell for several years. It opened prior to 1900 and closed around the time of his death in 1927.



Dr. Henry H.
Henson, around 1910

1949 - Northwestern Missionary Baptist Church

This image shows the Northwestern Baptist Church on May 29th, 1949, with an attendance of 116 (membership of around 100). Membership a year prior had only been about 40. This church building was constructed during the winter of 1948-49, with the first services being held on February 6th, 1949. The original structure had been located on a dirt road and was only accessible for about two thirds of the year.



Mid-1900s - decline of Terrell

In 1940, the population of Terrell was 123. At this time, it was still a prosperous community situated on the railroad. On October 31st, 1953, the post office at Terrell was discontinued. Mail was then delivered by Martin's rural delivery service. Within the next decade, the church and school at Terrell Grove would also close and many of its residents moved to Martin. By the 1980s, the railroad through Terrell was also abandoned. When the four-lane was built through Terrell, it destroyed several of Terrell's old buildings and split the community in half. Today, what was once one of the largest cattle shipping stations in Tennessee is now nothing more than a small community with no more than 10 or 15 homes.



Remnants of the Walker's Sausage Plant -
one of the last businesses at Terrell

Terrell Grove Community

The Terrell Grove community was a black community which adjoined Terrell to the south/southeast. This community was probably formed not too long after the Terrell community. By 1916, a school was established here. (The teacher that school year was J. E. Jenkins) Originally, this school was held in the same building as the Terrell Grove Baptist Church. Around the late 1940s or 1950s, a separate one-room school building was built near the church. This school remained until the early- to mid-1960s when Weakley County schools were integrated.



The Terrell Grove Baptist Church was probably established prior to the 1930s, but there are no early records or mentions of this church. Some family names in this church were Scott, Caldwell, Simmons, Williams, Britt, Callicutt, and Vincent. The church often held "dinner on the grounds," where meals would be set up in the school and church building and a picnic would be held out on the lawn. The church closed in or around the mid-1960s and most of the congregation moved to Martin. This church was located in the wooded area off of Russell Drive.

Terrell Grove Community



Terrell Family Cemetery

The Terrell Family Cemetery is located in a tree line on the Powers farm, about ½ mile west of Terrell Road. The only stone there is for Joseph N. and his wife Mary Walker Terrell who died in the early 1900s.



A gravel driveway lined with large green trees under a bright sky. The sun is shining through the leaves, creating dappled light on the path. The trees are dense and lush green, framing the path. In the background, a house and a fence are visible through the trees.

Mike Rea

Samantha Frields

Ronald Plunk

John and Mary Ann Rush

Lula Scott-Evans

Bernie Powers

my parents