

AUNT LAURA



By

Charles & Carolyn Stubblefield

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Introduction

Having the family farm brings both pleasure and responsibility. Strangely we have found mostly pleasure in fixing up the farmhouse, fighting weeds, mowing the overgrown fields, and learning more about our ancestors. A few years ago while cleaning out one of the building we discovered a large stack of old letters. They were neatly tied in bundles and stored in a wooden Old Virginia Cheroots cigar box in the shed directly behind the house amid junk, animal droppings, mice, and other dusty stuff that had not been touched in years. We collected the letters and put them in a safe clean place, hoping to go through them some rainy day when we had nothing else to do. That time has been slow in coming, but this past year as Charles was battling cancer and weak from chemotherapy, we began organizing these letters as well as other correspondence we have found around the house.¹ All the letters found in the shed were addressed to Mary Stout Stubblefield (i.e., Granny), great-grandmother of Charles, and most of the letters were dated between 1915 and 1917. The letters were from Granny's children or grandchildren, but the most voluminous of all were the ones from her daughter Laura Lipscomb of Beans Creek. We had heard of Laura over the years, mostly because she had contested her father's will, but other than that we knew very little about her life. After coming across these letters we became more curious and wanted to learn all we could about Aunt Laura and her home in Beans Creek. So in the spring of 2002 we began our investigation by going to Beans Creek, delving into her past, visiting cemeteries, talking to people who knew Laura, and looking through genealogies and other papers.^{2,3}

Reconstructing the life of a person who was born 150 years ago and died 60 years ago is like putting a puzzle together. It has been a real challenge trying to find as many pieces as possible. After you have read the following material we hope you find Laura to be as interesting as we have found her to be.



Charles & Carolyn Stubblefield

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Viola, Tennessee Community Center

The Early Years

Annie Laura Stubblefield was born in Viola, TN on July 6, 1852.⁴ She was the daughter of Robert Locksley Stubblefield and Mary Jane Catherine Stout, the first schoolteacher in Viola. Laura was the eldest of their seven children. Her grandfather, William Stubblefield, had moved to Viola in 1814, having bought the farm that has remained in the Stubblefield family until now. Laura was six years old when William died. His grave is in the family cemetery, along with Mary's, the last to be buried there.

When Laura was one year old her father operated what was said to be the first store in Viola. A history of Viola is found in the October 1, 1892 *Southern Standard*. The article describes R.L.'s role as a merchant and postmaster.

In 1853 Mr. R.L. Stubblefield built a little storehouse, the first business house erected at this place, in which he sold goods about two years. The next merchant here was Mr. Greek Braly (Brawley), who commenced selling goods in 1858 in the same house. These two gentlemen succeeded in getting a new post office established at this store, which was named VIOLA, from the heroine in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Mr. R.L. Stubblefield was the first postmaster at this office, and from that time (1858) the place has been called Viola.⁵

The earliest record we have of Laura is mentioned in an 1856 letter Laura's mother received from Laura's grandmother Anne Stout. The letter talks about a knee infection one of the children had experienced. Like all dotting grandmothers, she was giving advice on how to treat the knee and she also tells about gifts she had for the girls.

"Poor little babe. I hope it will soon be well. You should be very careful, keep the knee strait for fear it will draw, a poultice made of red oak bark, thicken with corn meal would be very good, for it will allay the swelling, draw the inflammation out. The green mountain salve is an excellent salve for some Tell little Martha grandma says bless her little soul. She must get well, come and see me. I will give her a pretty doll. Tell Laura I have kept her big doll for her. I wish she had it. When she gets it she must let Martha nurse it while she is sick."

R.L. and Mary produced seven children between 1852 and 1863. In 1863, the same year Emma was born, the family moved into their new home that is still standing in Viola.⁶ Laura wrote in her letters many years later how much she loved and missed the old Viola home place. She recalled pleasant

memories, like “Papa” planting the holly tree just outside her bedroom window, eating hickory nuts her mother sent to her, and the affection of her parents.

When Laura was nine years old (1861) the Civil War broke out. At about the same time the family joined the Philadelphia Church.⁷ Brother Sewell, the preacher at the church at the time, was a pacifist, while the Church was made up largely of people who supported the Southern cause. The Stubblefield’s appeared to be mostly pacifist, even though William had owned slaves. The family’s sentiments may have been divided between the North and South. Letters from Laura’s grandfather Stout clearly show that he was a strong Union supporter. James Dillon, in his history of Viola, describes the difficult times in Warren country during those years.

Like the rest of Warren County and the South, Viola suffered tragically in the conflict. Had it not been for the determination, resourcefulness and energy of its citizens, recovery from the devastation would have been almost impossible. While Viola missed the main brunt of both marauding armies, foraging units stripped the area of every available cow, horse, sheep, goat or oxen. Additionally all crops, foodstuffs and anything else a Yankee Soldier desired was taken. Not to be outdone, many farmers staked their prize horses and cattle in the coves, hollow and mountains providing a basis of recovery after the war.⁸

Life evidently returned to normal after the war because beginning on January 23, 1871 when Laura was 19 years old, William A. Sewell of the Christian Church commenced a five months school at the R.L. Stubblefield home. Twenty-nine students are listed on the school roster, which includes all seven of the Stubblefield children.

In these early years Laura appeared to be happy and active. Letters indicate that she visited friends and relatives, helped tend the sick in the community, and was devoted to her parents. She cared for the poultry on the farm and had income from selling eggs and chickens. An independent streak does show through when in 1884 her mother Mary wrote to her son J.R., who was teaching in Winchester, “Laura has not been very well, and you know she is sorta like the Quakers with regard to writing. Let us hope that the ‘spirit will move’ and before long you will hear from her”.

In her twenties and thirties, Laura was not without her suitors. Several notes and letters survive that indicate that young men invited her to church, to singings, or simply “will call this evening if agreeable with you”. In an 1885 letter from L.V. Woodlee he writes:

.....It has ever been an ambition of mine to endeavor to associate with persons of intelligence. Think not that I am trying to flatter you when I say frankly that I find you to be a young lady of much accomplishments and well informed.....

On July 3, 1894, when Laura was 42, she receives a ring through the mail. The enclosure simply said the following:

Miss Laura Stubblefield, Viola, Tenn.
At the request of Mr John Lipsomb of Beans Creek, Tenn. We send you by todays express pre-paid to office at Morrison, a package containing an 18kr plain gold ring. Trusting it will reach you safely we remain very respectfully,
B.H. Stief Jewelry Co. (Nashville, Tennessee)

Marriage

Laura remained in Viola with her parents until 1896 when she married John Lipscomb at the age of 44. The Lipscombs were very prominent landowners in Beans Creek and the Stubblefield's must have thought it was a good match. The marriage took place on April 29, 1896 in Viola, Tennessee. W.H. Sutton performed the wedding ceremony, and J.R. Stubblefield and W.M. Bonner were witnesses. Laura's mother gave the couple a wedding book and in it she pens:

Beloved Daughter

The fond object of our patient care
Must we this parting bear?
And know thy presence will no more
Be with us as of yore?

Be it so since heaven wills
To bear thee to another's home
And though sad our loving hearts
Will follow where so'ere you roam.

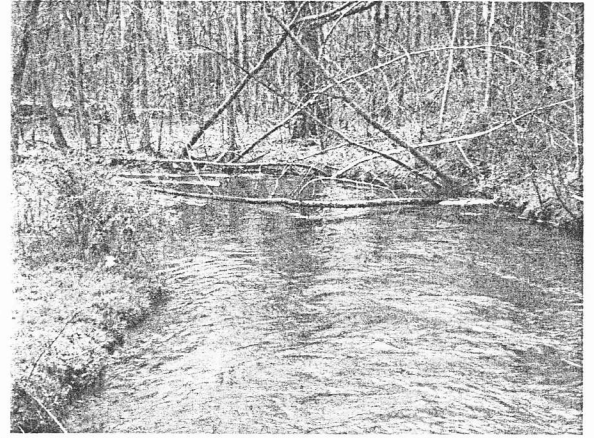
God be with you and the noble one
On whose love your life you rest
And when its toil and care are done
May you find a crown with all the blest.

April 29th 1896 Your Loving Mother

Why Laura and John waited two years to marry after she received the ring is a matter for speculation. Perhaps there was some hesitation because John was 58 years old and a widower with 10 children.

The Lipscombs

One cannot separate the history of the Lipscombs of Beans Creek from the history of the Church of Christ in Tennessee. When Granville, and his wife Anne moved to Beans Creek, Franklin County Tennessee from Virginia they introduced some of Alexander Campbell's beliefs into the Primitive Baptist Congregation where they worshiped. As a result the Baptists excluded the Lipscombs from their



fellowship and the Lipscombs soon erected a small building and established the first Christian Church in Beans Creek. Shortly thereafter in 1834, Granville and Anne moved to Sangamon, Illinois with their sons William and David. When Anne and the three children born to them in Illinois died, Granville and his surviving sons William and David moved back to Beans Creek. It was not long before Granville was married again, this time to Jane Breeden, a young lady he met at church. To Granville she bore **John**, Granville, Horace Greely, Ellen and Louisa. David later became a famous preacher and helped found Nashville Bible College that eventually became David Lipscomb University. A biography of David Lipscomb by Robert E. Hooper, *Crying in the Wilderness*, is good reading for the history of the Lipscombs in Franklin County.⁹

John, David Lipscomb's half brother, first married Ann Smith and moved into a large brick house built by her father. After Ann died, John was left with a large house and ten children. John's second marriage was to Laura Stubblefield of Viola. At least two of John's children were probably still at home when John and Laura married. John Jr. would have been 16 years old at the time and Amanda, 13. Laura mentions David Lipscomb several times in her letters. Once when David held a meeting at the Old Salem Church in Beans Creek, once she noted that John's sister, Louisa had named her son after David, and then many times in letters between 1916-1917 when David was very sick and near death. John goes to Nashville several times during these years to visit his brother David, and Laura keeps her mother informed of his condition.



Contesting Papa's Will

Laura had been away from home for 13 years when her father Robert Locksley died on November 9, 1909 at the age of 85. Of the other children, Mattie had already married and moved to Texas, Lou (the mother of Pearl and Ernest Bonner) had died in 1887, Emma had died in 1898, Haskell was living in Texas, George lived in Viola, and J.R. had built his house on the Stubblefield property and was farming the old home place and caring for Granny. George had tried farming on the R.L. farm for three or four years before thinking he could do better on his own, and Haskell had followed him in farming the place for about two years before moving on to Texas.

R.L. made his will in the summer of 1905 with W.H. Moore, W.E. Garner and A.J. Brewer as witnesses. He was at home at the time that he signed it, and it was read to him twice. Mary was given the home place during her lifetime and J.R. appointed as her agent. She was to be paid one-third of the profits from the farm during her lifetime. The other children, including Laura, received a small sum of money, and J.R. was bequeathed the farm. The will was probated on December 7, 1909 about a month after R.L.'s death.¹⁰ It was immediately contested.

Ernest and Pearl Bonner along with Laura Lipscomb of Beans Creek sought to break the will of R.L. Stubblefield. The *Bonner et al vs. Stubblefield* lawsuit continued from September 1910 to 1912 with the mental condition of R.L. at the time of the signing of the will being questioned.¹¹ Many people in the community as well as family members were called as witnesses in the trial, and it must have been a tough time to be a Stubblefield in Viola during these years. W.E. Garner (postmaster) testified that R.L. Stubblefield's mental condition was failing, but at the time he signed the will his mind seemed to be clear. He also said that just after the will was signed, there were times when R.L. would come to Viola during the week and have on his Sunday clothes and his Bible under his arm, and contend that it was Sunday. And at other times he saw R.L. come down on Sunday and go to Mr. George's (Stubblefield) store, and take hold of the doorknob and shake it, and then go home. He also stated that R.L. often came in before noon to get his mail even though delivery time wasn't until 3:00 p.m. "Squire" H.B. Bonner (livery stable operator and bondsman) testified that R.L. was his Sunday school teacher, but that he often forgot where the lesson was. He also mentioned seeing R.L. going through a store in Viola and out the back without saying anything, which was unusual behavior for R.L. since he had previously been a very talkative man. Under cross-examination

Squire Bonner admits that R.L. had become hard of hearing (which may account for the fact that he didn't speak). In the fall of 1904 he saw R.L. in town during the week all dressed up with his Bible and talked about people working on Sunday and went on to say there would be a reckoning hereafter and somebody would have to account for these things. He testified that he saw R.L. dressed in every-day clothes working his garden on Sunday afternoon. Similar testimony was given by Sam Ramsey, T.H. Winton, Joe Deakins, and Lionel Ramsey. Ernest Bonner supported his testimony that R.L.'s mind was unsound by recounting that in the fall of 1904 R.L. had given him a nearly new stiff white 'bosomed' shirt. He said the shirt was worth only about a dollar and that he had never worn it because the shirt had an amber stain on it. He stated that he 'wouldn't consider a man of a sound mind to give his grandson a present of that kind'. But it was the deposition of R.L.'s wife Mary that seemed to settle the issue and validate the will. She testified that R.L. seemed to be as well as usual on the day the will was executed. She stated that, prior to the signing of the will, R.L. had a 'rising' (boil) on his back and that Dr. Moore may have administered opiates during the treatment. (This might have explained R.L.'s erratic behavior.) She testified that he had recovered from this affliction before the will was signed. She also said that she and R.L. had discussed terms of the will and they were in agreement. The first time she had noticed her husband's mind failing was at the time of the raising of the barn in 1906.

Why the lawsuit was brought against J.R. is probably brought to light in the transcript of the 1911 trial in the testimony of H.B. Bonner, the uncle of Pearl and Ernest Bonner. He testified under cross examination that he had an interest in the lawsuit, was a bondsman, serving as security for trial costs, had advised the lawyers on the other side, and had urged Pearl and Ernest to bring the lawsuit. He had told Tom Sain as they were riding on a train to Nashville that the will ought to be broken. He also said the land or farm had been in the Stubblefield family long enough.

Laura's testimony in the trial is sometimes defiant and at times flippant. She testifies that her father was of unsound mind, and cites instances when she visited her parents in 1905 that led her to believe R.L.'s mind was fading. When questioned about the care her father had given her during the time she had lived with them before her marriage she gives this testimony:

Warren County Circuit Court, McMinnville Tennessee, May term, 1911 p. 109-112

Q. (Mr. Fairbanks) I asked you how much money your father gave you prior to your marriage to Mr. Lipscomb?

A. (Laura) Honest, I can't tell you.

Q. Give your best impression

A. He paid my dress bills, and all other expenses, as long as I stayed with him.

Q. I asked you to give your best impression, as to the amount of money given you prior to your marriage, before you came of age?

A. Well, I can't answer the question at all, because really I don't know. I don't expect my brother there could tell you how much he paid-doctor's bills, or anything of that kind.

THE COURT: Mrs. Lipscomb, answer the questions and do not bring in anything irresponsible, unless it is some explanation directly bearing on the question.

WITNESS: All right, thank you

Q. Well your doctor's bill in Nashville, didn't he loan you the money?

A. I really don't remember

Q. I will put it this way: how many hundred did he let you have?

A. I don't know

Q. Several hundred, wasn't it?

A. Yes, sir, it was several hundred,

Q. I will ask you to state to the court and jury if he had not given you up to that time, in advances, between seven and eight hundred dollars.

A. No sir, he did not

Q. How much?

A. Really, I can't tell you

Q. Now, I'll ask you again, hadn't he given you then, at that time, as much as seven hundred and fifty?

A. No sir

Q. About how much did he advance to you?

A. I don't know

Q. Did not Jim Stubblefield himself, pay two hundred and twenty dollars for you, at one time?

A. I don't know that. My brother went with me to the physician, and my father sent the money by him, but I cannot tell you how much he sent. I really don't know.

Q. I say, you executed a note to your father, for the advances he made?

A. Yes, sir

Q. Did you ever pay it back?

A. Yes, I did. I stayed there and worked for years and years and years, and if he had given me wages for my work, I would have gotten more than that.

Q. And he did not charge you anything?

A. Neither did I

Q. You got free room and board while you stayed there?

A. Yes sir, a hired girl gets that

Q. He clothed you, and bought all your things?

A. No sir, he didn't clothe me

Q. Well, you didn't make any money there, did you?

A. Yes, sir

Q. What at?

A. Raising poultry, and by sewing.

Q. You were a member of the family

A. That was my independent business

Q. How much board did you pay?

A. I didn't pay any board I helped my mother with the housework, and played servant

During the trial, detailed descriptions of R.L.'s actions and state of mind around the time of the making of the will were aired before the public as well as intimate details of family business. Laura even places into evidence some of her mother's private letters. The trial caused damage in family relations for a least two generations. Laura, with her actions in joining the lawsuit, had essentially, except for Pearl and Earnest, cut herself off from her family.

Life In Beans Creek

After her marriage, Laura moved into the large home on the Lipscomb farm. The house was a grand two-story brick structure and must have been very comfortable for its time. (The couple who currently own the house bought it about two years ago with the idea of renovating it. After spending about \$30,000, they decided the work was not practical and plan to tear it down.)¹²



Much information about the early years of her marriage is found in the testimony at the trial. Her health had improved after her marriage although she felt overworked. After the first year of her marriage she made infrequent trips back home. On one visit in 1904 to see her ailing father the trip was cut short because Mr. Lipscomb wanted her to come home to go with him to the St. Louis exposition. Mary and Laura exchanged letters frequently before the death of R.L., but after his death, Laura's letters ceased and Mary did not visit her as she did before. But sometime after 1912, after the lawsuits were over, Laura made peace with her mother and Mary's trips to Beans Creek resumed. The warm and newsy letters also flowed in both directions.

Many of the letters that exist today are those written between the years of 1915 and 1917 when Laura would have been in her 60's. In these letters to her mother, Laura repeatedly describes the frequent company she has. John's ten children seems to be constantly coming home and bringing their children. Then each year at Christmas time they would have a family reunion when all the children would come together. It seems that Laura did all the cooking and complained frequently to her mother about being tired and overworked. In one letter she describes a visit by Granville, John's son, and his four 'troublesome' children. Her company often included preachers who were holding extended meetings at the Old Salem church. Throughout all of this, Laura seemed to be in constant ill health. She complained about her eyes hurting and of having a cold, sore throat, or some other common illness.

It seems that Laura, even though frequently surrounded by a lot of company and John's children, was really quite lonely and regularly confided her inner feelings in her mother. Whatever the feelings were that existed years earlier because of the lawsuit contesting her father's will, a strong bond existed at this time with her mother. She longed for a visit from Mary, and in many of her letters she expressed how much she wished that her mother would come. There is evidence that Pearl and Ernest Bonner (her niece and nephew) visited her occasionally. Sarah Moore, a 92 year-old Winchester resident and cousin of John Lipscomb, said recently that her mother and 'Cousin Laura' and John were close friends. She remembered that Laura and John visited her grandmother from time to time on Sunday afternoons when Mrs. Moore was 12 years old. Her recollection was that Laura and John were very happy.¹³

Laura's letters make it clear that she was devoted to her husband, his children, and other members of John's family. She referred somewhat formally to him in her letters, however, by calling him 'Mr. Lipscomb' or simply 'Mr. L.' Laura frequently wrote that John was away for several days at a time seeing about his farm in Alabama, or visiting someone in Nashville.

Laura mentions a person named 'Ruth' in several of her letters and expressed frustration in teaching her domestic duties. Mrs. Moore recalled seeing Ruth at church with Laura and John and believed that Ruth was a retarded child that Laura and John had taken in. Laura declared that Ruth would never learn to cook and might be of more help to Mr. Lipscomb since she liked outside work better. Ruth also seemed to tie Laura down, as indicated in a letter about a trip Laura was contemplating. Laura stated that she could not go because there was no one to take care of Ruth.

When Laura's mother Mary was very old, she wrote a letter to her niece Ida Stanton during one of Mary's visits to Beans Creek. She wrote the following in her letter:

I came to make a few weeks visit to Laura but it will be one month the 14th since I left home and I do not intend to stay much longer. I have been quite poorly the past week, but feel some better today. It is very pleasant here in the old roomy house and Laura and John have done everything they could to make me feel at home. But I know that it cannot be very much longer that I can stay anywhere in this world. My greatest fear is falling. I walk with a cane when I go out of doors, and avoid long steps. I do not suffer much pain, but the general weakness of my whole system increases every day. Laura has no domestic help except a little girl who comes to churn for her. I could help her out a little but she will not even let me sit down by the table to wipe the dishes. We have much company, and when Laura is busy in

the kitchen I have to entertain them. There is (sic) many fine peaches here and I have been cutting some to dry and take home with me. Laura is canning tomatoes and has put up a few cans of peaches. I think she has 300 or more cans of fruit in the cellar, some two years old, yet as good as I ever tasted.”

The Later Years

After just returning from a visit to Laura in December of 1924, Pearl Reynolds wrote Laura saying how glad she was to have had a chance to go to see her and to find both Laura and John in better health than she expected. This was when Laura was 72 and John was 86. She goes on to tell Laura about Sallie’s (wife of J.R. Stubblefield) illness, reporting that the doctor didn’t think her condition was alarming (although records show that Sallie died less than two months later). As time continued, John eventually began renting the farm to Walter Crawford Reynolds.¹⁴

In 1931, relatives of John Lipscomb gathered at his home in Beans Creek to celebrate his 93rd birthday. A bountiful dinner was enjoyed and attended by many of his children. The notice of the event stated that John had been a Confederate soldier and that he enjoyed remarkably good health and took keen interest in the happenings of the day.¹⁵ Laura would have been 79 years old at the time.

W.H. Reynolds, the son of the Mr. W.C. Reynolds who had rented the John Lipscomb place, said that Aunt Laura was quite senile in her old age and that a woman named Fannie Porter (of Nashville), John’s daughter, took care of Laura’s business affairs, and would come up about twice a year to check the books with Mr. Reynolds. As he grew up around her, Mr. Reynolds always referred to Laura as “Aunt Laura”. He said that Laura was always fond of music, and that as a child he would go to her piano and bang on it. But Laura would take her walking stick and run him out because it didn’t sound like music to her. He remembers Laura never leaving the house. As he recalls, John was a small man who spent most of his time riding around on his horse “Tony” checking out the crops dressed in riding pants and boots. He remembers Laura having a 1934 Chevrolet, but doesn’t recall her ever going anywhere in it, although his folks (i.e., the Reynolds) would sometimes borrow the car to go to church on Sunday. In about the mid thirties a Ms. Essie Church and her daughter moved in with Laura and took care of her.

W.C. Reynolds continued to manage Aunt Laura’s place until she died on March 8, 1943 at nearly 91 years of age. He then bought her place and the Reynolds moved in. W.H. Reynolds said that after Laura died they sold much of the furniture but kept the beautiful roll-top desk that he said was full of old letters. Unfortunately all of the letters in the desk were later destroyed. No doubt they would have told a wealth of history had they survived.

Mr. Reynolds reported that John Lipscomb is buried in a family cemetery on the Hitson property in the Beans Creek area. Laura is not buried along with John because of family objections. The Lipscomb children, especially the girls, never accepted their stepmother. Laura is buried in the Viola cemetery between her nephew and his wife Ernest & Emma Bonner and Ernest’s father and stepmother, Andrew & Laura Bonner.



Summary

I, R.I. Stubblefield, of Viola, Warren County, Tennessee, do make, publish and proclaim this to be my last will and testament, to-wit:

1st.-All my just debts and funeral expenses shall be first fully paid.

2nd.- At my death I give and to my wife, Mary Stubblefield all my household and kitchen furniture. The balance of my personalty shall be sold and divided equally between my children, Earnest and Pearl Bonner receiving their mother's share, also Mary Wilson her mother's share, or her guardian who I will later appoint.

3rd.-I give and bequeath to my wife Mary Stubblefield my home place during her life time as a home and appoint my son, J.R. Stubblefield, as her agent to cultivate and control said farm allowing her one third of the proceeds thereof after expenses are paid by him, including taxes, improvements etc.

4th.- At my wife's death I give and bequeath to my son, J.R. Stubblefield my farm, after paying his mother's funeral expenses and Laura Lipscomb \$100.00, Mattie Reagon \$420.00, Maskel Stubblefield \$420.00, George Stubblefield \$300.00, Earnest and Pearl Bonner \$150.00 each and to Mary Wilson's Guardian, who I will later appoint, \$200.00. All are to have half cash at my wife's death and balance in twelve months, without interest. I make this difference with my children having heretofore given them all sums of money.

5th. I nominate and appoint my son J.R. Stubblefield without bond or security as guardian of my grand daughter, Mary Wilson, and allow him to pay her 6% interest per annum on her part of my estate until she is 21 years old, then the principal.

6th.- I nominate and appoint my son J.R. Stubblefield to be the executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other wills be me made.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal this day.

Signed, sealed and declared as and for his last will and testament by the above testator in our presence who have at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other signed our names as witnesses hereto.

Witnesses

W.H. Moore
W.E. Garner
A.J. Brewer

R.I. Stubblefield

State of Tennessee
Warren County

I, Jos. Gessler, Clerk of the County Court in and for the state and county aforesaid, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and perfect copy of the will of R.I. Stubblefield as probated in the Warren County Court at its December Term 1909, and recorded in Will Book No. 1 page 17th, 1909.

Jos. Gessler
Clerk.

Annie Laura Stubblefield Lipscomb appeared to have led a very interesting and fruitful life. She enjoyed a happy and well cared for youth while enduring the grief and hardship of the Civil War. Laura was a religious person and experienced the excitement of the restoration movement. She worked hard, was a good cook, and a devoted wife and stepmother. And perhaps most importantly, she was extremely devoted to her mother who offered tremendous support to help her endure the difficulties of being a mother to her husband's children. If she had it all to do over again, we might wonder if she would have married a person with 10 children, contested her father's will, or remained so distant to her brothers and sisters.

Laura



R.L. Stubblefield Family

Sources

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RELATIONSHIP OF THE STUBBLEFIELD,
BONNER, AND LIPSCOMB FAMILIES

